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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you believe the impeachment proceedings against Gov. Benigno Fitial should be revived in January?

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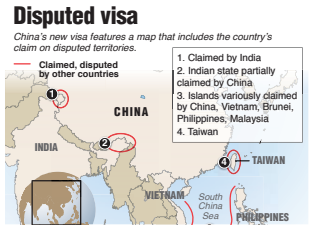
BUSINESS

Republicans' willingness to consider tax increases comes with a caveat. ➤ PAGE 13

ASIA

Disputed visa

China's new visa features a map that includes the country's claim on disputed territories.



China's defense minister and the U.S. Navy secretary talk security at sea. ➤ PAGE 15

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Library Friends disbanding; to host final book sale. PAGE 6

SDLLC seeks talks on $190.8M PPA

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fitial

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial didn't attend the Micronesian Chief Executives Summit in the Marshall Islands and sent Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and press secretary Angel Demapan instead, as officials of Saipan Development LLC are on island to meet with officials on the sole-source, 25-year $190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement.

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Hofschneider next Senate prexy

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Caucus names 18th Senate leadership

It's final. Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) will be the president of the 18th Senate in January as a result of Tuesday night's caucus. He could also well be the next lieutenant governor if the post is vacated by Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos to become the governor should Gov. Benigno R. Fitial step down or is removed. The incoming 18th House's supermajority is

See HOFSCHNEIDER on Page 4

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Northern Marianas College board of regents' chair Juan T. Lizama, right, explains the importance of the CNMI membership to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) while NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, PH.D, listens during yesterday's press briefing at the college campus.

WICHE accepts CNMI as its newest member

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

» 'Big tuition discounts, hundreds of educational programs now available to island students'

The Northern Marianas again made history after the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, or WICHE, formally accepted the Commonwealth as its newest member this month.

Northern Marianas College Board of Regents chair Juan Lizama and college president Sharon Hart, Ph.D., disclosed yesterday that after more than a year of working to make this happen, the 45-member WICHE commission unanimously voted for the inclusion of the CNMI at its Nov. 13 commission meeting in Utah.

The CNMI is the first of the Pacific Islands and U.S. territories to be accepted by the organization.

The CNMI is now the 16th member of WICHE, a regional, nonprofit organization that works to improve access to higher education and ensure student access through the states' student exchange programs and regional initiatives. Its other members are Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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Local

Stanley pre-files bill on 'public peace, safety and morals'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Four days after pre-filing a bill recognizing "common-law" marriages in the CNMI, outgoing Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) has come up again with a new one called the "CNMI Public Peace, Safety and Morals Act of 2012."

His latest bill makes acts of graffiti illegal, prevents excessive noise from vehicle sound systems and exhaust systems, prevents non-factory installed vehicle lights, and prohibits underage children from watching "R" rated movies.

Torres

"I am waiting for the next session to introduce it. If it doesn't pass, I hope somebody in the incoming 18th Legislature will introduce it again," Torres told *Saipan Tribune.*

He said defacing of public and private places should be made illegal because they are blight on the islands' beauty.

"There is a law prohibiting graffiti in Commonwealth parks, but this law needs to be expanded to cover areas outside of public parks. The graffiti artists might think their artwork is a thing of beauty in their own minds, but they are illegally using other peoples' property and government-owned places for their egotistical markings," said Torres in his bill.

One of the longest serving lawmakers in the CNMI, Torres said the public's peace of mind "is being improperly and irritatingly thumped by obnoxiously loud bass and boom-boom music sounds from certain vehicles' sound systems and, furthermore, the public's peace is disturbed by excessive exhaust noise from broken or altered exhaust systems."

Torres' House Bill 17-324 said certain vehicles change their factory installed headlights and taillights with brightly colored lights and darkened lenses, which cause confusion and distraction to other vehicles, especially at night.

"These distracting vehicles need to be removed," the bill says.

HB 17-324 also says "too many adults are taking their children or other children in their care, who are under the age of 13, to 'R' rated movies at Saipan's lone movie theater."

It says children under the age of 13 should only attend PG-13 rated movies with a parent or guardian. Movie and video rental stores also need restrictions in renting "R" rated and PG-13 rated movies and videos to underage children.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING
Cedric Pelen, 5, puts a dollar inside a red kettle as Salvation Army ministry leader Wayne Gillespie, left, looks on near the entrance to Joeten Superstore in San Jose yesterday. The Salvation Army's Christmas Kettle is an annual fundraising activity that involves kettle ringers ringing bells throughout the holiday season to solicit spare change from holiday shoppers. Proceeds of the fundraising go toward the international faith-based organization's programs that include feeding the hungry in the community.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

WEEKS BEFORE END OF 17TH HOUSE, SENATE TERM

Bureau conducts inventory of Legislature's assets

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

This early, some defeated lawmakers have started wrapping up and moving out some of their belongings weeks ahead of the end of the term of the 17th Legislature. The Legislative Bureau has also begun an inventory of the Legislature's fixed assets and capital.

Legislative Bureau director Melchor Mendiola said Public Law 17-52 mandates that all fixed assets and capital goods bought under any legislative account "shall not be transferred out of the custody of the legislative branch, except as provided by law."

The law also requires that the LB conduct a comprehensive inventory of all fixed assets and capital goods within the respective offices 30 days before the expiration of each legislative term.

"To comply with this mandate, I am respectfully requesting the cooperation and assistance from each respective office as the bureau's procurement specialist conducts an inventory of all fixed assets and capital goods purchased during the 17th Legislature for proper documentation," Mendiola said in a Nov. 26 memo to House and Senate members.

The next Legislature will be a mix of newcomers and old-timers. In the 20-member House, the current minority bloc will become a supermajority in January but the members have yet to swap offices.

In the House especially, the spacious offices are reserved for members of the majority, while the small ones are for minority bloc members.

The incoming 18th Legislature will be sworn in on Jan. 14, 2013.

21 contenders for FSM elections in 2013

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The Office of the National Elections Director has notified Speaker Isaac V. Figir of the 17th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia that 21 candidates will be on the ballot for the national general elections on March 5, 2013.

National Elections director Albert T. Welly transmitted a list of 21 candidates vying for the two-year seats in the upcoming 18th Congress. The director's letter of Nov. 20 2012, noted that review of the nomination petitions filed on Nov. 5 concluded that all petitioners met the requirements specified under the regulations for National Elections.

The Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia is unicameral lawmaking body with 14 senators. Four members serve as at-large representative of each state for a four-year term. The other 10 members are apportioned by state population to serve a two-year term. The overall composition of the FSM Congress is Chuuk has six seats, with Pohnpei four and Chuuk and Yap two each.

According to the director's letter, the official candidates will, on March 5, 2013, vie for the 10 seats in the FSM Congress that are apportioned per population to serve a two-year term. ***(PR)***

CANDIDATES' LIST

The following are the official candidates for the next general election of the national government:

State of Yap
Election District 1 (Yap State):
1. Isaac V. Figir (incumbent) - unopposed

State of Chuuk
Election District 1 – Mortlocks:
1. Florencio Singkoro Harper (incumbent) – unopposed

Election District 2 – Northern Namoneas:
1. Roger S. Mori (incumbent); and
2. Victory (Vicky) S. Gouland.

Election District 3 - Southern Namoneas:
1. Augustina S. Takashy;
2. Bonsiano Fasy Nethon (incumbent); and
3. Michael M. Kanas.

Election District 4 - Faichuuk:
1. Setiro Paul; and
2. Tiwiter Aritos (incumbent).

Election District 5 – Northwestern:
1. Moses A. Nelson;
2. Robson U. Romolow;
3. Ruphin Micky;
4. Tony H. Otto (incumbent); and
5. Williander Jack.

State of Pohnpei
Election District 1 – Sokesh, Kolonia, Sapwuahfik, Nukuoro, Kapingamarangi and Oroluk:
1. Dohsis Halbert (Incumbent); and
2. Ferny S. Perman.

Election District 2 – Madolenihmw and Kitti:
1. Berney Martin (incumbent); and
2. Dion G. Neth.

Election District 3 – Nett, U, Mwoakilloa and Pingelap:
1. David W. Panuelo (incumbent) – unopposed.

State of Kosrae
Election District 1
1. Johnson A. Asher; and
2. Paliknoa K. Welly (incumbent).

Insurance plan for Fund members, retirees expiring

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The health and life insurance policy of retirees and active members of the NMI Retirement Fund is expiring by the end of this year and the court-appointed trustee *ad litem* wants to negotiate a reduced contract with the insurance carrier for the new policy next year.

When the court appointed trustee *ad litem* Joseph Razzano in September, he was given several powers relating to the operation of the pension agency but these excluded the authority to handle the Group Life and Health Insurance Program, or GHLIP, a government program that is administered by the Fund and its board of trustees.

» Razzano seeks authority to negotiate reduced contract with Aetna
» Payment for 2 lawyers' fees of $22K sought

The last insurance policy was approved in October 2007 when the Fund entered into a health insurance agreement with Aetna International for group accident and health insurance coverage. This policy, which will expire on Dec. 31, 2012, is offered to active government employees and retirees.

The Fund, through lawyers Braddock Huesman and Daniel Berman, filed Tuesday an emergency motion seeking authority from the court to negotiate and decide for the GHLIP program.

According to the Fund, if no action is taken on the Aetna Plan it will be renewed automatically on Jan. 1, 2013. Aetna submitted to the board of trustees in August a renewal proposal but this was not acted upon because the board lost its quorum and was later replaced by the *ad litem*.

If the court confirms Razzano's authority on the matter, he can negotiate a further reduced new policy for members.

"The trustee can negotiate with Aetna to negotiate an agreement and make changes to the Aetna Plan, which changes can result in reduction of premiums [by] up to $4 million," states the Fund's emergency motion filed in federal court.

It was disclosed that Aetna's earlier proposal provided a 6.2-percent decrease in premium payments, a savings of only about $1.5 million, with no change in the policy coverage. The motion also seeks to procure health coverage on an emergency basis.

$22K legal fees of 2 lawyers

Also on Tuesday, the trustee *ad litem* filed in federal court an application for payment of legal services rendered by Fund counsels Braddock J. Huesman and Daniel J. Berman.

Since Razzano's appointment as trustee *ad litem* in September, he retained the two legal counsels and he is now seeking payment of $22,105.50 for the 110.75 hours billed by both lawyers.

Huesman, based on the application for payment, rendered 84 hours, which amounts to $15,418 based on his per hour rate of $200. For Berman, Razzano is requesting payment of $6,687.50 for 26.75 hours. Berman's hourly rate is $250.

Pursuant to a court order in September, the source of compensation for services rendered and submitted under this fee application is the CNMI government, which still owes the Fund over $300 million in employer contributions.

CLERK OF COURT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of the Superior Court, with (from left to right) Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja and Associate Judges David A. Wiseman and Kenneth L. Govendo. Naraja recently administered the oath of oath of office to Diaz after his appointment as Clerk of the Superior Court.

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HOFSCHNEIDER

From Page 1

firm on impeaching Fitial, and the process moves to the Senate for a trial.

All nine new and incumbent senators were present at the caucus on Navy Hill that saw the election of the four officers led by Hofschneider, 42.

"I am thankful to my colleagues for their vote of confidence and trust. I appreciate the fact that the gentleman's agreement was honored, wherein the presidency is by island rotation. This is a new beginning," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) is the next vice president, Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) is the next floor leader, and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) is legislative secretary.

Torres, in a separate interview, said the 18th Senate is "off to a good start."

While the impeachment and possible trial is hanging over their heads, the senators didn't discuss these issues during the caucus.

"We will cross the bridge when we get there. Our caucus was for the leadership to get organized. Of course everyone is aware of those issues but it's not our focus right now," Torres said.

Hofschneider also said they are going to address the issue of impeachment "if or when it comes."

He said the four priority areas will be healthcare, utilities, the pension program, and the economy. Torres echoed these priority areas.

Hofschneider, who started as a member of the Tinian Municipal Council in 2003 before being elected senator, spoke of "working together" with the House and the administration to address the CNMI's pressing issues.

"We need to work toward a common goal, compromise, and address the issues before us," he added.

Senator-elect Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan), a current member of the House of Representatives, separately said he supported Hofschneider's election as president.

Yumul also cited the gentleman's agreement initiated by Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan) in 2010.

"If it were not for that gentleman's agreement, Reyes was right, that Saipan will not have a chance to hold the presidency. As a new member, I was not a party to that gentleman's agreement but I respect that agreement," he said.

Yumul also said that while impeachment was not discussed during the caucus, he reiterated that among his top agenda is "the mandate of the people," referring to voters' overwhelming support for pro-impeachment candidates so they can finish the impeachment process that was started months ago.

The current House leadership that is aligned with the governor easily defeated by a vote of 10-9 a House minority bloc resolution impeaching the governor for 16 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony. The current minority will be the supermajority in January, and they vowed to impeach the governor.

At least 14 "yes" votes in the 20-member House are needed to impeach the governor, and at least six "yes" votes in the Senate to convict him. The incoming majority in the House has 16 members, more than enough to impeach Fitial.

Hofschneider said there will be a separate meeting to name the chairmen of committees.

He said a caucus was held Tuesday night, or days prior to the planned trips of some senators during the holiday season.

Last week, the 18th House leadership also held their caucus, electing House minority leader and main author of the defeated impeachment resolution, Joe Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) to become the next speaker.

The incoming vice speaker will be Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), floor leader will be Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan) will remain chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

If the 18th House impeaches the governor and the Senate convicts him, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos will become the governor as mandated by the CNMI Constitution. The Senate president then becomes the lieutenant governor.

NEW FLAG
A new American flag flutters in the wind in front of the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill yesterday, replacing a tattered one that the *Saipan Tribune* photographed on Tuesday. For many, it is not respectful to display an American flag when it is already torn, worn, or faded.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

WICHE

From Page 1

Hart and Lizama said that membership in the organization will make CNMI students eligible for reduced tuition in 15 member states. For undergraduate programs, the reduced tuition for NMI students is at 150 percent of the resident tuition of that institution.

For example, the University of Nevada in Las Vegas charges resident students a tuition rate of $5,130 while nonresident students' tuition is at $19,040. A CNMI resident studying in this institution, because of its membership with WICHE, will be assessed a reduced tuition of $7,695—a savings of $11,345 if the CNMI student is charged a nonresident tuition rate.

For graduate students, more than 250 graduate programs will be available to them as a result of membership in the organization. CNMI students pursuing a master's or doctorate degree will pay the resident tuition rate of that institution instead of the tuition assessed foreign/nonresident enrollees. According to Hart, the cost-saving per student in graduate studies alone is projected at around $8,000 a year.

To avail of these benefits, member institutions require proof of residency from the students. CNMI citizens can physically attend to their choice courses or they could take programs online.

WICHE is the only organization in the West that focuses exclusively on higher education issues—from access and accountability to tuition and fees to distance learning and innovation, providing hard data on trends as well as analysis.

The CNMI spent $125,000 for its annual membership in WICHE. For the next membership fee, Hart revealed that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has committed to providing the amount from his office's budget.

Hart said the CNMI's membership in the organization would not have been possible without the support of the Board of Regents, the governor, and the Legislature because WICHE requires each state government's commitment to the organization.

Hart disclosed that starting January 2013, CNMI citizens who will study or is studying in WICHE member states can avail of the reduced tuition rates and can take all programs offered by WICHE members.

Hart said this means off-island ongoing scholars—both from the NMI Scholarship Office and Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance—can also avail of the benefits. Hart revealed that NMC had already communicated the good news to both scholarship offices so they could inform their scholars.

For Lizama, membership in WICHE will help the CNMI develop the professional pool it needs, especially in the medical field where local students can pursue higher education at a much lesser cost. According to him, membership in the organization will encourage citizens to explore more educational opportunities that, in the long term, will be a win-win for both students and the islands.

SDLLC

From Page 1

As of last night, the Fitial administration was mum on the visit of SDLLC officials, who have also sought an audience with lawmakers, weeks before the planned reintroduction of a resolution impeaching the governor for corruption, neglect of duty, and felony in connection with the $190.8-million power deal, among other things.

Fitial and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham signed the sole-source PPA on Aug. 3, a day before Buckingham left the CNMI. The signing of the 25-year agreement was known to only a few individuals.

Fitial, who has been religiously attending MCES meetings, decided to skip the Nov. 29 to 30 meeting in the Marshall Islands. Pro-impeachment lawmakers questioned the timing of the governor's decision to remain on Saipan.

Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan) said Inos may not have been informed by the governor of the arrival of SDLLC officials which she said include Jason Osborne and Kenneth Mahmood.

"I have $190 million reasons to believe that the governor didn't attend the summit off-island because SDLLC is here," Maratita told *Saipan Tribune* last night.

Maratita sued the governor and others over the signing of the $190.8-million PPA. Rep. Ray Yumuul (IR-Saipan) and the Senate joined Maratita in the lawsuit.

"We've heard Osborne and Mahmood and others from SDLLC are here and they are very secretive about this. God help us, what are they up to now? I still believe that it's a badly written agreement and not in the best interest of the CNMI. The government should cancel that agreement in its entirety," she added.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) confirmed yesterday that SDLLC officials are seeking a meeting with Senate and House members.

As chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, Ayuyu said he is interested to hear directly from SDLLC about the $190.8-million PPA.

"We can't assume there's something wrong until we hear from them," he said, adding that he hopes the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has already started or completed a full economic analysis of the PPA.

He said he wants to know "how this contract came about" and what it would really cost to individual utility customers, among other things.

There remains no full economic analysis done, three months since the PPA's signing became public.

"We can't really do anything until we see an economic analysis," Ayuyu said, adding that he hopes CUC will also be in the meeting.

Ayuyu said the meeting with SDLLC is set for next week, but he said he doesn't know the exact date and venue yet.

But Maratita said she received information that SDLLC already met with "at least three senators."

Senators asked yesterday said they heard about SDLLC officials' visit but they are not aware of scheduled meetings.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said if there's a meeting, he would like to attend it so he can ask direct questions.

"I will go because it's one of the most important contracts signed in the past few years. How was this contract signed, what analysis was made, what will consumers pay? Why was the community not informed about it prior to the signing?" Torres said last night.

Torres, the incoming Senate vice president, said he wants to know whether SDLLC has the financial capability to undertake the power project.

"Is there an assurance that CUC customers will pay less? Where's an RFP? Why was there no RFP?" he said.

Another lawmaker said SDLLC "may have already been preparing a defense for the impeachment and trial."

"They will try to convince lawmakers that the PPA is good for the CNMI," the lawmaker said.

Maratita, for her part, described SDLLC's visit as "a secret mission" to persuade lawmakers here that the PPA is good.

"They are here to sell the product. They are good salesmen. The PPA was signed [by the governor and former AG]. But not good enough to sell it to the public," she said.

Most incumbent House members who did not support the impeachment resolution lost their re-election bid. Most candidates aligned with the governor and his Republican Party also lost the Nov. 6 midterm elections.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House PUTC Committee which has oversight on the PPA, said he didn't know about the SDLLC officials' visit and any meeting about the power deal. Torres voted no to the impeachment resolution and pulled out the PUTC panel from a probe of the $190.8-million deal.

In late August, Saipan Development LLC co-founder David Mahmood said the $190.8-million power purchase agreement won't have an upfront cost to the CNMI government and would be much more cost-effective than operating the existing power plant in Lower Base in the next 25 years, but CUC officials didn't believe so.

Mahmood is founder of Allegiance Capital Corp. He and Don Kurz, owner of Keystone Shipping, formed Saipan Development LLC "to operate as the overall developer of the [power] project."

Mahmood said SDLLC's plan included not only a 50-megawatt diesel power plant but also a shipyard and construction of a new hotel, among "various projects."

"If we are unable to proceed further, what Saipan Development Corp. loses is time, effort, and money. The citizens of Saipan lose the opportunity for a newer, cleaner, and more efficient power plant that could have contributed importantly to the infrastructure of the island and help Saipan grow. The citizens will also lose opportunities we hoped to develop through the development of the Lower Base into an industrial facility that could bring well-paying, skilled jobs and new investment beyond the hospitality industry," Mahmood had said.

Pro-impeachment lawmakers said Fitial and Buckingham's signing a no-bid $190.8-million deal for a 25-year period "does not rise to the level of emergency." CUC is under a state of emergency, meaning it is in direct control of the governor.

NMHC: Oleai Sports Complex cannot be closed to the public

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Citing federal regulations, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. stressed that the Oleai Sports Complex cannot be closed to the public.

Jeannie P. Mafnas, NMHC planner and grant writer, said during Tuesday's board meeting that they immediately contacted Secretary Melvin Faisao of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs upon seeing a news article regarding the planned closure.

The Division of Sports & Recreation under DCCA announced on Nov. 16 that the Oleai Sports Complex will be off-limits to the public from Dec. 2 to 23 and early next year from Jan. 1 to Feb. 9, 2013.

The temporary closure is a result of the contract signed by DCCA with LG Twins, a professional baseball team from South Korea planning to use the facility for their training program this spring. Founded in 1982, the team is a member of the Korean Professional Baseball Organization and has been coming to Saipan to conduct weekslong training camp.

"I understand that there's a contract executed and I believe there's a payment for the use of the facility," Mafnas informed the board.

Mafnas said in an interview that they were concerned about the closure since the gymnasium, the small baseball field, and the track and field bleachers at Oleai Sports Complex were funded through the Community Development Block Grant program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The facility's closure is not allowed by HUD regulations, she noted.

"All HUD-funded facilities that are constructed must be open to the public during normal operating hours," Mafnas told *Saipan Tribune*.

The closure announcement prompted NMHC to write a letter to Faisao, who clarified the issue with Division of Sports & Recreation director Joseph Attao.

"They are not going to close the entire facility but they do have scheduled times for games," said Mafnas, adding that LG Twins would only be using the big baseball field, which is not funded by the CDBG program.

Mafnas noted that NMHC has yet to receive a list of which facilities of the complex would be used and the schedule of the games, including the copy of the contract between DCCA and LG Twins.

For her part, board chair Marcie M. Tomokane instructed Mafnas to stay on top of the situation by sending out follow up letters to Faisao, with a copy to the governor. She also asked NMHC to check with HUD if there would be a penalty for NMHC due to the situation.

"I think it's incumbent upon us to make sure that the facility is not closed for any purpose on any day to remain in compliance," added Tomokane.

ARCHIVE RECORDS
Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Tomas Camacho, center, looks over church archive records for the first signature entry of Fr. Arnold Bendowski, whose nephew, John G. Bendt, left, and grand-nephew, John Bendt, right, visited Mount Carmel School ahead of its 60th Anniversary to learn more about Fr. Arnold's impact on the school and the island community.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Navy awards task orders to build facilities related to realignment

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) issued yesterday the following statement regarding the U.S. Navy's recent announcement that it has awarded a $14 million task order for beginning work on the second increment of Apra Harbor Wharf Improvements. Bordallo supported this military construction project, which was $40 million overall, in the fiscal year 2011 National Defense Authorization Act. NAVFAC Marianas issued a request for proposal for this project to all Small Business Multiple Award Construction Contract holders on Sept. 28, 2012.

Bordallo

"The Navy's awarding of this task order demonstrates progress in moving forward with the military buildup in a timelier manner," said Bordallo. "These infrastructure improvements at Apra Harbor are directly tied to the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam, and are critical to supporting mission requirements of the Navy and Marine Corps. Moreover, these projects create jobs and are one of the many economic opportunities that may benefit our island's local businesses. Although I am encouraged that the Navy is moving forward with this project, there is still more work in reducing hurdles to move forward with the overall realignment. As such, I continue to work toward ensuring the defense bill for fiscal year 2013 maintains provisions that would roll back Senate restrictions on spending military construction funds directed to military installations on Guam." ***(PR)***

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Library Friends disbanding; to host final book sale

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Library Friends will hold its final used book sale on Dec. 1 before the group finally disintegrates due to lack of members and support.

Maureen E. Sebangiol, president of the group which conducts fundraising activities to help the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library purchase more books, made the announcement yesterday.

"Despite everyone's best efforts, we have not been able to get the ongoing interest and support necessary to sustain the Library Friends in its current incarnation," Sebangiol said in an email sent out to a small number of group supporters.

Library Friends, which has struggled with small membership for years, began regularly holding a book sale several months ago due to the increased volume of books being donated by people leaving the islands.

During book sale events, the group puts up for sale learning materials like hardback books, CDs, and DVDs for $1 each, paperbacks for only 50 cents or magazines that cost 10 cents each.

Since Saturday's event is the final book sale, Sebangiol noted that all of their used books must go.

Sebangiol said some supporters suggested dropping the prices even further to offload as many books as possible.

There may also be reference books that would be given out for free to minimize the volume of used books that the CNMI's state library will have to store, she added.

"I profoundly hope that once we are formally disbanded, the community will perceive the need and a group will form to assist the library with its mission and purpose," added Sebangiol.

Meanwhile, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library also announced that it will be closed on Dec. 8, Saturday, in observance of Constitution Day.

For more information, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe or call 235-7316.

Investigator locates case witness in S. Carolina

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The target witness in the ongoing sexual harassment case against school principal Jonas Barcinas was located by investigators in South Carolina, based on the latest court filing of security guard Homayan Kabir, who sued the educator five years ago.

Through counsel Joseph E. Horey, Kabir also turned over to the court letters and documents to show that he exerted efforts to find the potential witness, Akin Rasa, since 2007. The documents were intended to refute Barcinas' argument that Kabir didn't show any effort to find and locate Rasa.

Horey, in his nine-page declaration, admitted that the original documents involving efforts to locate Rasa were lost in the fire that destroyed his office in August 2008. But the lawyer was able to submit a copy of a questionnaire that Kabir filled up for his early complaint filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission where Kabir listed Rasa as the other person who also experienced what he experienced with Barcinas. The two are former security guards at Dandan Elementary School.

"In his response, filed with the Honolulu branch of the EEOC on Jan. 26, 2007, Mr. Kabir answered: 'A Palauan security guard named Akin Rossa [Rasa] was also sexually harassed," stated the court document filed by Horey. The lawyer also told the court that on June 1, 2007, he received a letter from EEOC investigator Raymond Griffin requesting contact information for Akin. Both documents were submitted to the court.

After finding out that Rasa was no longer on island, Horey said that efforts to locate him continued, including contacting possible relatives here and in Guam. The lawyer added that he was able to speak with Rasa on the phone on May 2, 2008, regarding incidents involving Barcinas. Horey then wrote a letter on May 13, 2008, to Rasa and mailed it to him, but the former did not respond.

Several letters, he added, were also drafted to some investigators seeking assistance in finding Rasa. On Oct. 18, 2012, a hired investigator advised Horey that Rasa was in South Carolina.

"According to the letter, [Akin] Rasa appears to have been living in Georgia as early as March 9, 2011, and to have had resided in at least four different towns in Georgia (Statesboro, Duluth, Jonesboro, and Hinesville) since then, before relocating to South Carolina in September 2012," stated Horey.

According to Horey, if it becomes necessary for him to fly to South Carolina to depose Rasa, his client is willing to bear the cost of the airfare.

A deposition is an opportunity for the opposing attorney to ask any questions that are relevant to the case or likely to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

Kabir earlier asked the court to authorize him to depose Rasa, a former security guard who worked at DES at the same time with Kabir. Rasa was earlier identified by Kabir as a person with discoverable information in the case. Barcinas, however, asked the court to deny this motion.

According to Barcinas, if emergency motion for deposition is granted, this will result in additional expenditures of both parties—time and money—for a shot in the dark that plaintiff wants to take. His hearing strategy and tactics, according to Barcinas, could also be affected by the testimony of Rasa if the court will consider Kabir's motion.

MHS CHORUS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas High School Chorus under the direction of Ruthie Fruit continues its three-year participation in the recent Veteran's Day celebrations, singing the CNMI and U.S. national anthems. The Chorus, made up of members from the MHS Glee Club, Chorale and Show Choir Class, is proud to represent not only students from MHS but all students whose parents, friends, and relatives have served in the U.S. military. Many Chorus members are taught by faculty who are veterans, and many have friends and family currently serving in the U.S. armed forces.

Funkugub gets two years for illegal gun possession

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite an appeal for a shorter prison term, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Justin A. Funkugub on Nov. 26 to 24 months in prison for illegal possession of a firearm.

The 35-year-old Funkugub was given credit for the 40 days he has already served in jail. Upon his release, he will be placed on three years of supervised release with conditions.

Funkugub was charged with illegal possession of a firearm. The U.S. Probation Office recommended the 24-month jail term. The defendant challenged this, arguing that it should only be 18 months.

Among the conditions for his supervised release is that Funkugub should not commit another federal, state, or local crime and should not unlawfully possess a controlled substance. He shall also submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter.

Funkugub is also prohibited from possession a firearm, ammunition, or other dangerous weapon, shall participate in a substance abuse treatment program, shall perform 100 hours of community service, and shall pay the court special assessment fee of $100 to be paid immediately after the sentencing.

All fines are waived for Funkugub since it has been determined that he does not have the ability to pay.

Manglona also recommended that the defendant participate in substance abuse treatment programs, counseling programs that include anger management, and educational programs in order to obtain a high school equivalency diploma.

Funkugub has the right to appeal the sentence if he wishes to do so.

Funkugub was indicted on a charge of a felon in possession of a firearm, possession of a firearm with a removed, altered, or obliterated serial number, and felon in possession of ammunition.

He was found in possession of a Smith & Wesson Model 12-3, .38 caliber snub-nosed revolver that had an obliterated serial number.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Parole Hearing

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and LT. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Parole Hearing** is scheduled for **December 12, 2012, (Wednesday)** beginning at **1:30 P.M.**, and to continue on **December 13, 2012**, at **9:00 A.M**. at the **Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections, Briefing/Training Room**, Susupe, Saipan.

The following items are included in the agenda:

I.	**Preliminary Matters**		
	1. Call to Order		
	2. Welcome Board Members		
	3. Roll Call		
	4. Presence of Quorum		
II.	**Consent Items**		
	1. Adoption of Agenda		
III.	**Parole Application**	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
1.	Kelani Vincent Pangelinan	12-010	10-0057E
2.	John W. Rasiang	12-011	11-0194A
3.	Cheroleen Aurellio Ray	12-012	11-0251(E)
4.	Geoffery S. Ada	12-013	11-0024
5.	MD: AKTAR HOSSAIN	12-014	03-0398A
IV.	**Re-Application**	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
	1. Sanito Estrera	12-RA-003	08-0106B
	2. Roland Nick H. Muna	12-RA-004	10-0184
	3. Alston Santos	12-RA-005	10-170D
V.	**Revocation**	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
	1. Shawn Cabrera Appleby	10-010	96-319
VI.	**Miscellaneous**		
Other Matters		**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
	1. Dewayne Sibetang	05-019	00-164
	Re: Board Decision		
VII.	**Adjournment**		

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman
Date: 11/13/2012

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
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E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Executive Meeting

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that an **Executive Meeting** is scheduled for **December 12, 2012, (Wednesday)** beginning at **9:00 A.M.**, at the **Department of Corrections Briefing/Training Room, Susupe, Saipan**.

The following items are included in the agenda:

I.	**Preliminary Matters**	
	A)	Call to order
	B)	Roll Call
	C)	Presence of Quorum
	D)	Welcome Board Members & New Board Member
II.	**Consent Items**	
	A)	Review/Adoption of Agenda
III.	**New Business**	
	(A)	Presentation Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
IV.	**Old Business**	
	A)	Board Policy on the Conduct of Executive Meeting and Parole Hearings
	B)	Commonwealth Constitution: Article III Re: Section 9: Executive Functions
	(C)	Reprieves, Commutations and Pardons
V.	**Miscellaneous**	
	A)	Other Matters
VI.	**Adjournment**	

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman
Date: 11/13/2012

EMO observes intense volcanic activity on Pagan

An intense volcanic activity was monitored by the CNMI Emergency Management Office and captured through satellite images from Nov. 24, 2012, to the present. The volcano has been emitting steam and gas since Friday, Nov. 24, 2012. The vog shows that it's heading south from Pagan volcano.

A gas plume from Pagan has been observed in MODIS satellite images. Minor steam and gas plumes from Pagan have been seen as well. It is possible that the plume could be followed by an ash emission; the presence of a gas plume does not necessarily indicate that eruptive activity will occur soon.

Pagan is not monitored with ground-based geophysical instrumentation and the only source of information is satellite observation and occasional reports from observers who visit the island.

Also an intense earthquake was recorded at the EMO and National Earthquake Information Center yesterday at 5:34pm Saipan time. The preliminary magnitude is 5.3 on the Richter scale. It was centered some 45 km (27 miles) south of Pagan, Northern Mariana Islands and 276 km (171 miles) north of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

Base on all available data no tsunami is expected and there is no tsunami threat for the Marianas. ***(EMO)***

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Serenity Salon & Spa owner Nenita Castro Ta, fourth right, and visiting skin care expert Dr. Lyna Macatangay, fourth left, are flanked by the staff of the premier full-service salon and spa on island following the successful launching of their state-of-the-art machines on Monday evening.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Staffer Pinky Antonino, left, of Serenity Salon & Spa discusses the benefits of their latest machines to customers while another staffer, Mercy Garcia, second left, looks on during the formal launching of their four new machines on Nov. 25.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Serenity Salon & Spa unveils new treatment machines

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Serenity Salon & Spa continues to maintain the distinction of being a premier full-service salon and spa on Saipan with the formal launching of its state-of-the-art machines that provide new treatment services.

Over 30 guests gathered at the second floor of Dollar Days in Garapan on Nov. 26 as Serenity Salon & Spa management and staff, including visiting skin care expert Dr. Lyna Macatangay, unveiled the IPL and RF Hair Removal, Oxygen and Bio Skin Lifting, No-Needle Mesotherapy, and Ultrasonic Cavitation Slimming equipment.

The newly purchased machines are a welcome addition to Serenity Salon & Spa's expanding line of skin care tools. Monday night's event featured video presentations of the benefits of each machine.

Guests enjoyed not just the hors d'oeuvres and cocktails but also a free trial of Serenity Salon & Spa's new gold mask, which will be offered for a minimal fee to guests who avail of the signature deep facial cleansing treatment.

The launching event was also highlighted by the testimony of Senior Army Instructor James Burke of the Kagman High School JROTC Unit, who recommended the Ultrasonic Cavitation Slimming treatment and attested to its health and aesthetic benefits.

Serenity Salon & Spa gave away free samples of their hottest and effective facial products and awarded treatment services to lucky winners of the evening's raffle draw.

"We thank our customers for taking time out of their busy schedules and making an effort to attend our successful event. We hope that through the launching, our guests can share the good news about our innovative machines that offer beauty and wellness solution," said Nenita Castro Ta, owner of Serenity Salon & Spa.

Ta said the successful event resulted in several appointments scheduled by some of the attendees, taking advantage of their introductory prize packages that come with quite a few free treatment services.

The company is celebrating its 7th year in the beauty business this year.

For more information, visit Serenity Salon & Spa or call 233-6688/2828/2288.

FHB employees in Guam and CNMI contribute $18.6K to local charities

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank employees in Guam and the CNMI pledged $18,603 for local charities during the bank's recent Kokua Mai employee giving campaign, according to an announcement yesterday by Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, senior vice president, Guam and CNMI region manager.

"We're especially proud that we achieved 100 percent participation with every single First Hawaiian Bank employee in our region participating in Kokua Mai to help us exceed our goal by 123 percent," said Dacanay. "Our employees are some of the most generous, volunteering their time and talents to assist various community charities throughout the year."

"We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Guam and Saipan employees at First Hawaiian Bank for their generous contributions to Make-A-Wish Guam," said Make-A-Wish Guam executive director Victor Camacho. "Their donations make it possible for us to grant wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions in our community. Through Kokua Mai, First Hawaiian supports us in our mission to enrich the human spirit with hope, strength and joy."

First Hawaiian Bank administers the annual fundraising campaign with 100 percent of employee donations going directly to local charities. The online giving program is completely run by employees. This year's four-week campaign ran from Oct. 1 through Oct. 31 with employees conducting department fundraisers throughout.

First Hawaiian Bank (fhb.com) with assets of $16.1 billion was founded in Hawaii in 1858 and is the leading bank in Guam with the largest share of loans and deposits in the region. The bank operates 58 branches in Hawaii, three in Guam, and two on Saipan. ***(FHB)***

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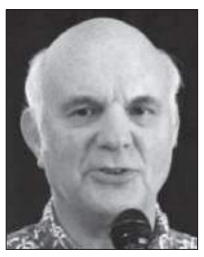
USCIS to address Chamber at Dec. luncheon

USCIS District Director David G. Gulick will address the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at the Chamber's monthly general membership meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.


Gulick

Gulick has indicated he will provide important updates and information on the CNMI-only CW-1 visa program, as well as any new information concerning the extension of the CW-1 visa transitional worker program as outlined in the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

"The Chamber annually hosts its Student Exploration Day luncheon in December. This is an excellent opportunity for our 70 attending students, and their 26 sponsoring SCC members, to hear how USCIS will protect job opportunities for U.S. and resident citizens under U.S. immigration authority," said SCC president Douglas Brennan.

The Chamber also announced it would not be surprised if an appearance by last year's special seasonal guest, Saint Nicholas, aka Santa Claus, will occur. Executive director Richard Pierce, who maintains the Chamber membership and has been awfully good this year, said this visit will a tribute to Ruth Tighe, who requested after last year's visit that the appearance of Santa Claus be an annual Chamber event.

The Chamber luncheon will commence at 11:30am and the meeting will begin promptly at noon. Member luncheon fees are $20, while guest and the general public are invited at a $30 luncheon fee.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, with its 170 members, was founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1976, and is the largest private business organization in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Chamber works to promote and protect the business, economic and civic interests, and the general health and welfare of the islands. ***(SCC)***

ANA to host free pre-application training

The Administration for Native Americans will be sponsoring a pre-application training on Dec. 3 and 4, 2012.

Pre-application trainings are designed to provide prospective ANA applicants with "nuts and bolts" information on the federal application process and ANA Funding Opportunity Announcements for Social and Economic Development Strategies and Native Language Preservation and Maintenance.

Participants learn how to:

- Register and apply on grants.gov.
- Understand the ANA Funding Opportunity Announcement Evaluation Criteria.
- Format, package, structure and submit an application for ANA funding consideration.

The training sessions are offered free of charge to tribes and Native American, Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander non-profit organizations. Each participant is responsible for paying their own travel costs to attend.

A training session will be held on Saipan on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 3 and 4, 2012, from 9am to 4pm at the Northern Marianas College. On Monday, the session will be held in Room V-216 and on Tuesday the session will be held at the Board of Regents conference room.

Register online at www.anapacificbasin.org/ana-training/ and click on "Saipan." For more information, call 483-4441. ***(PR)***

Editor's Note: Parents are being encouraged to read the following to their children to raise their interest, then come see the show as staged by the Friends of the Arts.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

(or An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas)

By MAJOR HENRY LIVINGSTON JR. (1748-1828)
(previously believed to be by Clement Clarke Moore)

Third part of a series

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes—how they twinkled! His dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly

To be continued.

USDA offices moving to new location

USDA offices currently in Mongmong, Guam, will be closed Dec. 12 to 14, 2012, to move and will re-open for business on Dec. 17, 2012, in the new location at the PACAIR Air Cargo Facility. The USDA Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Rural Development will be relocating to 770 East Sunset Blvd. in Barrigada, Guam. The suite numbers at the new location will be Rm. 260 and 270 for NRCS, Rm. 265 for FSA, and Rm. 275 for RD. USDA office contact numbers will remain the same at 472-7568 for FSA, 472-7490 for NRCS, and 472-7361 for RD. The NRCS office on Saipan will remain in the same location on Beach Road in South Garapan. ***(USDA)***

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board
will be held on Thursday, December 13, 2012
at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor,
Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of November 15, 2012 minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings
1. None

C. Communications / Reports

D. Old Business.
1. Updates on the following pending legislations:
   A. Saipan Zoning Law of 2012
   B. Saipan Adult Gambling Machine Businesses (Pokers)

E. New Business
1. Office operations report

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Saipan Tribune
Make it your DAILY habit.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Logistics Manager

Graduate of 4-year degree course and with at least 6 years management experience in the logistics business with emphasis on airfreight, ocean freight forwarding, warehousing and fuel hauling operations. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, Environmental and Occupational Safety Hazards is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume to CTSI Logistics, lower base not later than December 7, 2012, Friday.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 29, 2000

EPA grants $1M to improve drinking water

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will make available $1,124,300 to improve drinking water system infrastructure in the CNMI, according to Division of Environmental Quality Director Ignacio V. Cabrera. Mr. Cabrera said the funding comes from money the U.S. Congress authorized under the 1996 amendments to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The purpose of the funding is to improve compliance with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations or to otherwise further the health protection objectives of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

College students seeking scholarship get boost

The Office of Rep. William S. Torres has pledged to offer extra assistance to locally and nationally-based college students in fresh efforts to help boost their postsecondary careers. In a letter sent to some 300 students attending colleges here and abroad, Torres said his office is ready to facilitate the students' transition from college or trade school to the CNMI workforce. For the meantime, Torres said his doors are wide open to accommodate students who may need any assistance toward the completion of their college degrees.

Nov. 29, 2001

Study: NMC students stay to finish entire college term

A vast majority of Northern Marianas College students who enroll at the public institution stick around until the end of the semester to complete their courses, a retention study revealed. The study, which partly accounted for the number of students who stayed to the term's end versus the number of students who enrolled in the beginning of the semester, was able to note an average of 95 percent retention rate for Academic Year 2000-2001. NMC Institutional Effectiveness Director Stanley Mar said that once students enter the college, they are generally set to stay for the entire semester.

Transition members check govt agencies

The transition panel yesterday started sorting documents and interviewing government workers to collate all necessary records, as the Dec. 14 deadline nears. Fifteen days before the deadline, members of the transition committee started visiting different offices and departments. Yesterday, different transition subcommittees checked on the CNMI Governor's Council for Developmental Disabilities, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, the Governor's Legislative Review, the NMI Retirement Fund, and other divisions under the Office of the Governor. The teams also asked for reports and records of the said programs. Aside from the Capital Improvement Project records and audit reports, transition teams also inquired about the tardiness and absences of government workers.

Nov. 29, 2002

DOLI willing to help Egyptians

The Department of Labor and Immigration is willing to extend the necessary assistance to the 39 Egyptian workers while they remain here in the CNMI, according to Secretary Joaquin A. Tenorio. Right now, he said, these 39 workers have nonresident worker permits and are entitled to certain labor rights as embodied in the CNMI law. "If they come to us, we'll extend the necessary assistance they're entitled to," said Tenorio in a recent interview. The department will also extend help to the contractor, Telesource CNMI, and its subcontractor, Pyramid Inc., which hired the Egyptians, if necessary, he added. Tenorio said, though, that his office will not intervene in the ongoing settlement talks between Telesource and Pyramid on the employment of the Egyptian workers.

Guerrero quits as CIP coordinator

Newly hired Capital Improvement Project coordinator for Public School System Frank Guerrero has stepped down from his post amid talks concerning the funding for his employment. "I'm no longer there. I turned it down," said Guerrero, who is also the current chairman of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors. He did not elaborate. Guerrero made the statement a day after he attended the regular meeting of the Board of Education Monday afternoon as the Governor's CIP consultant for PSS. In an interview, Guerrero said there was still some $11 million unexpended CIP fund for schools. Meantime, BOE chairman Herman T. Guerrero said Gov. Juan N. Babauta sent a letter requesting the board to shoulder a certain account relating to the hiring of Frank Guerrero.

Island Snapshots

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PTSA MEETING

The William S. Reyes Elementary School holds a PTSA meeting on Nov. 20, 2012, with a presentation by Ramon B. Camacho on the Neighborhood Watch program.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

FHB DONATION

First Hawaiian Bank president and chief executive officer Bob Harrison, right, and CNMI Library Council chair Herminia Fusco unveil the First Hawaiian Bank logo on the Bookmobile van of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Nov. 15, 2012, during which the bank also donated $15,000 to the library to support its Bookmobile and Distance Education and Homework Learning Center.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to this two wonderful people, Christopher Santos, who will turn 13 today, Nov. 29, and Nikki Santos, who just turned 17 on Nov. 27. We want to wish them a big happy birthday celebration in Boise, Idaho. We hope you enjoy your special day and stay safe. We miss and love you both. Greetings come from Auntie Zenaida and Stanley Santos and the kids and granddaughter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

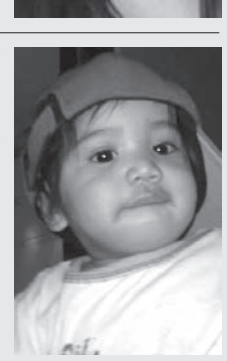
Happy, happy birthday to Darrah Benavente who celebrates her birthday today, Nov. 29! May you be blessed with many, many more birthdays to come! Here's to hoping and wishing that all your birthday dreams and wishes come true! We love you from infinity to beyond! Greetings come from Junie and your SATC crew!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This birthday shoutout goes to our baby sister/daughter, Princess Francine Lizama Santos! Another year with you baby girl and we can't wait for more. Wish we were there to celebrate with you. Happy birthday and many more to come. Stay safe and enjoy. We love you! Greetings come from Mommy and Daddy, Tinie and Craig, Nish, Pepz, Boy, SJ, Sus, Shawn, and Riri.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy second birthday to our Tasmanian devil, Tyler James Ruak Santos! We love you, God bless, and enjoy your special day! Greetings come from Mommy, Nina and Nino, Grandma and Grandpa, and the rest of the family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IP&E DONATIONS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jeff Boyer, IP&E CNMI area manager, presents a check donation to the CHC Volunteers Association during a reception at Hard Rock Café Saipan on Monday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jeff Boyer, IP&E CNMI area manager, kicks off the holiday season with a donation to Karidat Social Services on Monday during a reception at Hard Rock Café Saipan.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Morsi overreaches, Egypt roars

Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi had a problem with the country's judges, who came to office under former dictator Hosni Mubarak and who he feared were going to shut down the assembly that is drafting a new constitution.

But when he asserted vast new powers to prevent that, he found that his solution created another, equally formidable problem: an eruption of opposition among Egyptians who said he was becoming "a new pharaoh." By Monday evening, it appeared that Morsi was starting to hear them.

The wave of protests that greeted his decree raised the worrisome possibility that Egyptian politics would grow more polarized and unpredictable, scaring off investors and impeding the economic revival the country so desperately needs. But it is largely for the better, not the worse. The people of Egypt have asserted that they didn't topple a dictator only to tamely cede unbounded authority to a new ruler.

Last week, Morsi dismissed a public prosecutor he saw as an enemy and issued an edict making his decisions immune from judicial review. Instead of reassuring the public that he was safeguarding the transition to democracy, he sparked fears that he was doing exactly the opposite.

Egyptians poured into the streets to protest the edict, and mobs attacked his party's offices in various cities. Opposition groups formed a National Salvation Front to resist his power grab, and the Egyptian Press Syndicate, which includes journalists at state-owned organs as well as independent media, demanded that Morsi reverse course.

A presidential spokesman said Monday that Morsi has agreed to scale back the decree, while the judiciary agreed to let the constitutional deliberations continue. The opposition canceled a rally it had planned Tuesday in Cairo's Tahrir Square, but it wasn't clear the public will be satisfied with a partial retreat.

Morsi is discovering that even in a country making the turbulent escape from autocracy to democracy, the end does not automatically justify the means. Many liberal and secular groups distrust the president's Muslim Brotherhood, suspecting it wants to create an Islamic state. Even if Morsi's motives are pure, which is not obvious, he gave the impression he was willing to destroy democracy in order to save it. He met resistance even from his own people: His justice minister advised him to back off, and three other advisers quit in protest.

The president also had to worry about the response abroad. The U.S. State Department obliquely chided Morsi by saying, "One of the aspirations of the revolution was to ensure that power would not be overly concentrated in the hands of any one person or institution."

Morsi insisted he wasn't trying to become all-powerful but merely trying to advance "a big, clear goal: the new Egypt." An Egypt where an elected president errs and then has to face the full throat of public wrath? That is a new Egypt.

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AND AS THE 'FISCAL CLIFF' TENSION GREW AND HEIGHTENED, EVERY WHO IN WHO-VILLE BECAME MORE AND MORE FRIGHTENED...
FOR THEY KNEW THAT THE GRINCH JUST COULDN'T RELAX, ON A CLIFF OF HIS OWN WAITING TO COLLECT MORE TAX...
KOEREN
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

Singing at SAU's Friendship Hall

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Thanksgiving Thursday night, I watched a foreign gem twinkle on the Friendship Villa sixth floor at Shenyang Aerospace University. International students sang their hearts out in *Zhongwen* songs into the erstwhile seasonally frozen cubicles of the heart.

With language learning understood as heard first before it is read, students' listening and repeating the sounds of a language is a fundamental starting point in any linguistic pedagogy. That's university talk. Simply said, a child's *putunghua* (common language) is first heard and mimicked before it is transcribed into *Zhongwen* (in Pinyin as well as traditional and simplified characters), and spoken in various *Hua*.

We learned English repeating what we heard about "Pepe and Pilar" (a hasty conversion of Jack and Jill materials) in northern Philippines in the early '50s when GI Joe was still welcome to leave Amerasians behind. I was in fourth grade when I finally learned how to read. I learned to speak English first by hearing it, not from reading or writing it.

We follow similar methodology in furthering oral English with university Chinese learners, getting them as much chance to hear and repeat spoken English words so that their ears become familiar and comfortable with English sounds, rather than recognizing words first by sight. The usual practice of checking on the lexicon of Chinese meanings when encountering an English word comes from the wish to "understand" the word but not remembering its sound or its "look." Thus, with a dictionary, Chinese students can write in abstract terms. It is hardly grounded.

Thursday night showed how the method of listening and repeating a language being learned "humanizes" the language acquisition rather than confines it to the strictures of academic study.

Our SAU Indonesian contingent ran off with the evening. With the opening male rendition of *Tonghua* (Fairy Tale) and the plaintive female vocals of *Yue liang dai biao wo de xin* (The Moon Mirrors my Heart), the musicality of the night was launched. When a duet of *Yin wei ai qing* (Because of Love) pierced the air, this old curmudgeon mellowed to sentimental slobbery. *Xiang qin xiang ai* (Love each other) was choreographed in motion, and a high-energy belting of *Hao xiang* (Really, really want) joined the musical stew, producing a Shenyang-by-Night *sans* the klieg lights. Playful *Lao shu ai da mi* (Mouse Loves Rice) tickled the bones.

It was refreshing to hear *Zhonghua* with Yemini and Somalian accents, along with Khmer and Thai dictions, Gaullist and Hangeul stylistic expressions. When Yoruba flair joined the finger-snapping *Wu shuo wei* (Nothing matters), we were rockin'. When men of Yemen, France, Korea flirtatiously *Dui mian de nv hai kan guo lai* (Girl, look at me) addressed Nigerian *obinrin* and Indonesian *ayu* (ladies), the breeze of romance teetered on the edge where the guardian hosts were ready to call it a night. The *coup d'grace* came with an adept fingering of guitar strings while crooning *Ju zhi hua kai* (Gardenia flower) from a voice of Abuja and the Niger delta.

Billed as a competition, there were no losers. Three male staff comically closed the fun-filled event. We suggested to the organizers that it would be well for the university to reprise the occasion, and hold it more often.

An airing of national songs from the international studentry for their Chinese counterparts would be a helpful reverse. We may learn Kikuyu, Yoruba, and Swahili sounds, Hindi and Urdu tunes, Bahasa beats, Hanggul and Nihonggo chimes, Arabic and Turkic chants, to name a few.

We may also have an occasion for English songs like those heard from global singers piped into the neighborhood department mall, and freely accessible on QQ, the local iTunes without the fee. English with French and Norwegian accents, Argentine and Australian slangs, Iberia and Bayou rhythms would just be fine.

We volunteer on the weekend to teach oral English to children who have yet to learn their numbers and the alphabet. We encounter children who repeat songs they learned in pre-school and kindergarten. "If you are happy and you know it" comes as a favorite.

My grandchildren in the U.S. mainland watch "Kai Lan", a Chinese children's program on TV. I was greeted early this year with *"Lao ye, ni hao?"* (Grandpa, how are you?). Chinese is the fastest language course rising from public and private schools in the English-speaking world. MLK, Jr. included Georgia in his litany of "I Have a Dream" re children of slaves and slave owners; now, the Macon BoE, we learn, makes Chinese learning mandatory. Go, Georgia!

"For Unto Us a Child is Born," comes bundled with the "Hallelujah Chorus" this season without its religious overtones. I am partial to an edited Quaker's "Simple Gifts" with its Appalachian spring lilt. It is suddenly fun to appropriate the tunes of one's heritage without worrying whether one has to genuflect first, or solemnly pose in sanctimonious demeanor.

English is not L2 to those born or brought to the Commonwealth at an early age. In today's world, one need to be a native speaker in at least two tongues. That means at least two language boxes in the brain by the time one is 5. (The brain can hold up to 24 boxes!)

So PSS and NMC, slow down the theoretic on the linguistic and the semantic, tone down the phonology and uncomplicate the syntax. Just get language learners singing!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Petraeus, the comeback general

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him e-mail at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

Gen. David H. Petraeus, long the most famous overachiever in the U.S. Army, is already on his way to a new career distinction: breaking the land speed record for rehabilitation from a scandal.

It was only two weeks ago that Petraeus resigned from his job as director of the CIA after it became clear that his affair with his biographer, Paula Broadwell, couldn't be kept under wraps.

The dust hasn't settled yet on the chaos kicked up by the FBI's discovery of the affair, touched off by Broadwell's jealousy of another woman who liked men in uniform. Did Petraeus allow Broadwell to put unauthorized hands on classified information? Did the U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Marine Gen. John Allen, say anything indiscreet in emails to Tampa socialite Jill Kelley? Does the shirtless FBI agent get away scot-free? And did all this madcap socializing affect anyone's performance on their day jobs?

Never mind. We're a fast-moving society—and, it appears, a forgiving one. At home in suburban Virginia, Petraeus is no doubt still making amends to his high-achieving wife. But in the larger world, the retired general is already contending with an avalanche of opportunities for his next big job.

He's had offers to teach from at least four universities and had conversations about seats on corporate boards. He's thinking about giving speeches, writing a book on leadership or even becoming a talking head on television.

And that's not all.

"Down the road, a return to public service isn't out of the question," a friend who talked with Petraeus told me last week. Not as an elected politician but as a potential Cabinet officer in a future administration.

"He just doesn't see himself as a politician," the friend said. "He sees himself in the vein of George C. Marshall more than Dwight D. Eisenhower." That would be Gen. Marshall, who was Army chief of staff during World War II, became secretary of state under Harry S. Truman and won the Nobel Peace Prize for rebuilding postwar Europe.

So Petraeus is still aiming high.

And, characteristically, he's being strategic. He hired Washington superlawyer Robert B. Barnett, who helped Bill Clinton and George W. Bush make the transition to the private sector.

He's getting encouragement from politicians too.

"He is one of our brightest and our best," Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat and chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said last week. "There is no counter to that."

The public seems to agree. Petraeus' esteem among ordinary Americans was knocked down a peg by the revelation of the affair, Gallup reported last week, but it's still solidly in positive territory, better than philanderers John Edwards or Tiger Woods—and even a little better than Mitt Romney, who merely lost an election.

But Petraeus isn't entirely out of the woods yet. The FBI is still investigating whether Broadwell was given unauthorized access to classified documents by Petraeus or his staff in Afghanistan. The CIA's inspector general is quietly looking into whether Petraeus did anything else untoward during his 14 months at the head of the agency, aimed mostly at averting any unpleasant surprises. And Congress, in its wisdom, may yet find something in the scandal to chew over.

But Petraeus appears likely to go down in history as a beneficiary of what you might call the Bill Clinton rule: Adultery is no longer a disqualifier in American politics.

Petraeus already understood that; he didn't resign until it became clear that the affair would become public and lead to months of investigations. Even then, he didn't resign until his titular boss, National Intelligence Director James R. Clapper, told him to.

There was a time when an extramarital affair was almost automatically the end of the high-ambition trail. Gary Hart had to abandon a presidential campaign in 1988 after he spent a weekend on a yacht with a model. He's done useful work since, notably as co-chairman of a commission that warned—before Sept. 11, 2001—that terrorist attacks against the United States were likely. But he's never been nominated to a Cabinet job.

By this year, though, Newt Gingrich could run for the Republican presidential nomination without his tangled personal history standing in the way. Gingrich's three marriages didn't help him among social conservatives, but they weren't the main reason he fell short: He got out-debated and outspent by Romney.

Does this mean voters—or senators voting to confirm a Cabinet nominee—no longer care about a candidate's private life?

Hardly. Human curiosity still knows no bounds. And powerful people whose misbehavior exceeds garden-variety adultery—John Edwards, I'm thinking of you—still face disqualification.

In short, we're not France—yet. But we're no longer Puritan America either. Petraeus' second chance, if he gets it, will prove the point.

Papyrus to paper: Get over it

By DAN AKST
Los Angeles Times

Daniel Akst, a former columnist for the Los Angeles Times, *is a writer in New York's Hudson Valley. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

"Hi. I'm paper. Remember me?"

I remember you, paper, all too well, all high and mighty yet ready to crumple at the first sign of pressure. I thought I was all cried out, but when I first read those words of yours—part of a public relations campaign on behalf of a paper company by the name of Domtar Corp.—I just erupted.

I thought I was over all that—the sense of betrayal, of being cast aside in favor of someone younger, thinner and better looking—but what I thought was scar tissue was still very much alive to the pain.

Why oh why did you have to reopen all those memories?

I'm papyrus, you see. That's right, papyrus. I'm not ashamed of it. I won't ask if you remember me, of course. Nobody does. And that's hard to live with when you were used to being lovingly smoothed and inked and rolled by soft-handed scribes in sunny places.

But I'm OK with the change. Really I am.

Oh, who am I kidding? I still nurse the hope, however delusional, that my time will somehow come once again—that the same people who shave with double-edged razors while listening to vinyl records will decide, you know, there really was something about papyrus. He was the real McCoy. He had class.

I'll admit to a little schadenfreude over your troubles, paper. Just the other day I thrilled at the sight of a newspaper ad from Domtar, part of a series that features the words "paper because." The answer in this one was "overdependence on technology might be making us less intelligent." Pathetic! Socrates tried that back in my day, claiming that writing would undermine memory, and it was nonsense 2,400 year ago. In fact, we only know about it because Plato wrote it all down—on me.

That was my heyday. Things have been kind of slow ever since, so it did a heart good when the PC came along, although of course that only produced more paper. But then, finally, we had the smartphone and the tablet and the environmental movement, and people were down on paper. And then that tragic ad campaign, just reeking of desperation. Your sad little confessional essay—on a website!—was far more revealing than you seem to realize.

"I was there when you were born, capturing your height and weight, and even your little footprints … and I beamed with pride when you first wrote your name, with all the letters facing the right way.… On the day of your graduation, we crossed the stage together.... From your first paycheck to your finest presentation, I've always been your partner."

That's just like you, paper. You don't mention that you're just as glad to be an arrest warrant, a ransom note or a death notice. You'll say anything, won't you paper? You've always had that kind of flimsy moral fiber. And now you're moaning about being cast aside? Complaining that people think you're a tree killer? As eager as you were to paper over your sins, they've caught up with you at last.

And you know what? I feel for you. We all do—my pals parchment, clay tablet, cave walls, the whole gang. Oh, we were all jealous of one another, of course we were, but when you came to town, it was clear we'd all go down together, so we formed a kind of support group; nothing terribly formal, just a bunch of superannuated codgers with long memories. Not a grudge-holder in the bunch, did you know that? Just a great bunch of guys, who've always been there for each other.

But do yourself a favor, paper. Steer a wide berth because, believe me, they'd tear you to pieces.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

When T.P. was just not enough

Where else could a simple request for a case of toilet paper by one man go to being a full-blown fundraising event in a matter of weeks? The radio-telethon held on Saturday, Nov. 17 must have been an inspiration of The Spirit. Conceived by Gary Sword of KKMP at the dinner fundraiser of the 60th anniversary of Mt. Carmel School on Oct. 20, its spark ignited a host of people. His wife, Rosemond Santos, was on board. Then the ever widening circle went to Marcie Tomokane of Bank of Guam for whom "a case of T.P. was not enough," then to Galvin Deleon Guerrero of Mt. Carmel School, Fr. Ryan Jimenez of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Pacific Trading Company, etc. Then, it moved across the airways of radio and television and the printed media. There is no stopping the Spirit!

We, the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz extend our sincerest gratitude to each and every one who responded to the call to help support the Sisters retired at the MMB Maturana Residence, as well as the prayer ministry at the Maturana House of Prayer. Your remembrance, your thoughtfulness, your generosity overwhelm us.

On Wednesday, Nov. 21, when Gary Sword and his companions came to bring the donations, he shared some anecdotes from the day of the fundraiser—one man came with a bag of coins as his donation, wishing it could be more, but it was all he had. A child came, piggy bank in tow and presented it in its entirety!

To those who braved the sun that day—Mt. Carmel students, alumnae, friends and those who got caught up by the Spirit—THANK YOU SO MUCH. Our gratitude continues for the generous donation of the Bank of Guam. Our hearts are touched by the separate donation of the Bank of Guam employees themselves.

Thank you as well to those who donated assorted other items from an electric hospital bed, commode, a regular twin-sized bed, drinks, other household items and of course what started it all—the case of toilet paper!

It is true, our sisters first arrived on Saipan in 1928, right there across from what is now Kristo Rai Church, the site of the fundraiser. We have remained until today and we hope to continue our presence among you all for years to come.

As was so accurately reported—as Sisters, we never really "retire." Age and infirmity may slow us down, but our prayers continue daily for the needs of all our people, the needs of the Church and those of the entire world.

At Maturana, our doors are always open to welcome your visits, requests for prayers or for a time away for personal prayer or group retreats at the House of Prayer.

Thank you, once again, from the bottom of our hearts. May you continue to listen for and act on the promptings of The Spirit in your lives.

Sr. MaryAnn Hartmann, MMB
On behalf of all the MMB Sisters

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

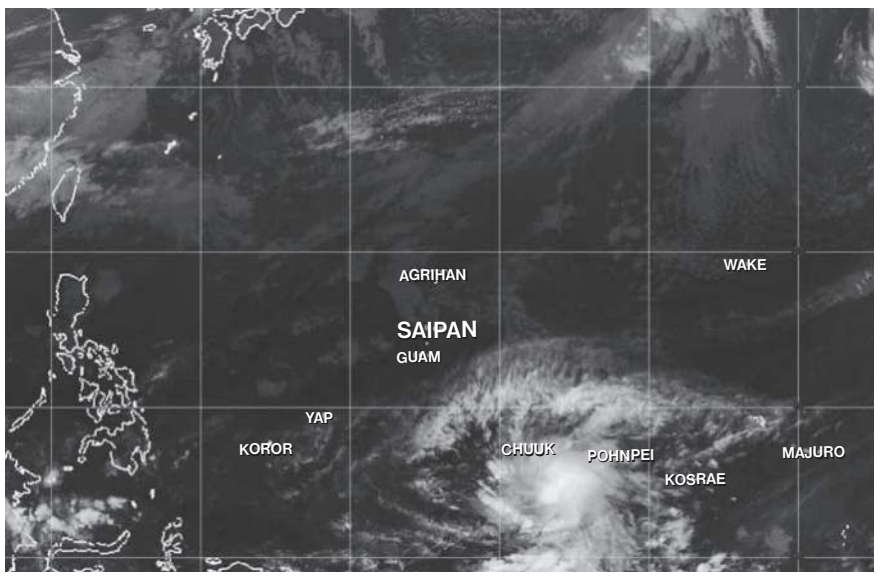
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼78
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Windy	▲63	▼59
Beijing	Sunny	▲38	▼22
Hong Kong	Showers	▲73	▼69
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼67
London	Partly Cloudy	▲41	▼33
Los Angeles	Showers	▲64	▼54
Manila	Sunny	▲88	▼76
Melbourne	Thundershowers	▲79	▼66
Miami	Showers	▲78	▼67
New York	Sunny	▲41	▼31
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼46
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲44	▼35
Pusan	Sunny	▲54	▼34
Rome	Rain	▲55	▼49
Salem	Rain	▲53	▼49
San Francisco	Showers	▲64	▼59
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲42	▼25
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼44
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲50	▼35

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Bopha (26W) is centered 260 miles southeast of Chuuk at 5N154E and is moving west at 7 mph with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between the equator and 6N from 148E to 157E. For more information on Tropical Storm Bopha, refer to bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A cold front curves southwestward from north of 25N151E to beyond 130E at 20N. Scattered showers are occurring along and up to 250 miles north of the front. Another cold front curves west-southwestward from east of Wake Island at 19N180 to 17N170E. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are present along and up to 200 miles north of the front east of 174E. Patchy clouds and scattered showers are found along and up to 150 miles north of the front west of 174E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:00 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:59 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:25 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
7:07 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Monday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:16 PM	6:41 AM
Friday	7:05 PM	7:29 AM
Saturday	7:55 PM	8:16 AM
Sunday	8:45 PM	9:02 AM
Monday	9:35 PM	9:45 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOV. 21, 2012

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-PUSAN (BUS)

0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7
0Z608	3:30am	6:40am	3

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:10am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU7108	2:50am	5:55am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)

VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1
0Z606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/749	3:20pm	11:20pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN

0Z607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6
0Z607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
0Z605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN

VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA702/605	12:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5073	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Business

A big disconnect as 'fiscal cliff' clock ticks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans' newfound willingness to consider tax increases to avert the "fiscal cliff" comes with a significant caveat: larger cuts than Democrats seem willing to consider to benefit programs like Medicare, Medicaid and the president's health care overhaul.

The disconnect on benefit programs, coupled with an impasse between Republicans and the White House over raising tax rates on upper-bracket earners, paints a bleak picture as the clock ticks toward a year-end fiscal debacle of automatic tax increases and harsh cuts to the Pentagon and domestic programs.

Democrats emboldened by the election are moving in the opposite direction from the GOP on curbing spending, refusing to look at cuts that were on the bargaining table just last year. Those include any changes to Social Security, even though President Barack Obama was willing back then to consider cuts in future benefits through lower cost-of-living increases. Obama also considered raising the eligibility age for Medicare, an idea that most Democrats oppose.

"I haven't seen any suggestions on what they're going to do on spending," a frustrated Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said Tuesday. "There's a certain cockiness that I've seen that is really astounding to me since we're basically in the same position we were before."

Well, says Obama's most powerful ally on Capitol Hill, the Democrats are willing to tackle spending on entitlement programs if Republicans agree to raise income tax rates on the wealthiest Americans—a non-starter with Republicans still in control of the House.

"We hope that they can agree to the tax revenue that we're talking about, and that is rate increases, and as the president's said on a number of occasions, we'll be happy to deal with entitlements," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said Tuesday.

But Reid speaks only in the most general terms, wary of publicly embracing specific ideas like boosting Medicare premiums or raising the program's eligibility age.

At the White House, Obama met with a group of small business owners. Participants described the hour-long meeting as a listening session for Obama, with the business owners urging him to reach an agreement.

"They had one message for the president, which is they need certainty. Please get this deal done as soon as possible. They very much want consumers out there knowing that they're going to have money in their pockets to spend. That's why it's so important to pass the extension of the tax cuts for 98 percent of consumers, 97 percent of all small businesses," said Small Business Administration head Karen Mills.

Obama planned to meet Wednesday with more than a dozen leaders from large corporations, including Lloyd Blankfein of Goldman Sachs, Marissa Mayer of Yahoo!, Brian Roberts of Comcast and Arne Sorenson of Marriott.

AP

In this Nov. 21, 2012, file photo, President Barack Obama speaks about the Thanksgiving holiday in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US declines to label China a currency manipulator

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration declined Tuesday to label China a currency manipulator, noting that it has let the yuan rise nearly 10 percent in value against the dollar since June 2010. The decision came in a twice-a-year Treasury report on whether any other nations are manipulating their currencies to gain trade advantages. Despite its decision, the administration said the yuan remains "significantly undervalued," and it urged China to make further progress. U.S. manufacturers contend that China is manipulating its currency to gain a trade advantage. A weaker yuan makes Chinese goods cheaper for American consumers and U.S. goods more expensive in China.

Retailers appeal $7.2B credit card fee settlement

WASHINGTON (AP)—Several retail groups are appealing a $7.2 billion court decision approved earlier this month that was designed to settle allegations of fee-fixing against major credit card companies. Visa, MasterCard and other card companies agreed in July to settle a lawsuit brought by retailers who claimed card issuers conspired to fix the fees they charge stores for accepting credit cards. Earlier this month a New York judge gave preliminary approval to the agreement. On Tuesday 10 retail groups filed an appeal of the decision in U.S. district court for the Eastern District of New York. The groups include the National Association of Convenience Stores, the National Restaurant Association and eight others. Retailers have complained that a provision barring retailers from filing future lawsuits over swipe fees is too broad.

Dollar rises as consumer confidence increases

NEW YORK (AP)—The dollar rose against the euro Tuesday after U.S. consumer confidence increased to its highest level in almost five years. Traders also bought the dollar as sales of machinery and equipment unexpectedly rose last month. The euro fell to $1.2939 in afternoon trading from $1.2963 late Monday. The Conference Board said that its consumer confidence index rose to 73.7 in November from 73.1 in October. Both are the best readings since February 2008. The Commerce Department said that orders for core capital goods rose 1.7 percent in October, the best showing since a 2.3 percent rise in May. The stronger data from the U.S. overshadowed a deal by European leaders to release more financial aid to Greece.

US economy gets lift from consumers, businesses

WASHINGTON (AP)—American consumers are growing more confident about the job market, companies are ordering more equipment and home prices are rising in most major cities. The latest batch of government data suggests that the economy is improving just as the holiday shopping season begins. The only threat is a package of huge spending cuts and tax increases that will kick in unless Congress strikes a budget deal by year's end.

Rising home values, more hiring and lower gas prices pushed consumer confidence in November to the highest level in nearly five years. And steady consumer spending appears to have encouraged businesses to invest more in October after pulling back over the summer.

Those trends could boost economic growth slightly in the final three months of the year. But the real payoff could come early next year—if the automatic tax increases and spending cuts known as the "fiscal cliff" can be averted. Businesses that have postponed expansion plans could move forward with projects. That could lead to more hiring.

"Right now, households don't seem to be letting the fiscal threat control their urge to spend," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors. "The first weekend of holiday sales was great, vehicle sales are holding up and housing is strong."

Reports Tuesday showed:

■ The Conference Board's consumer confidence index rose to 73.7 in November from 73.1 in October. Both are the best readings since February 2008. The index is still below 90, the level that is consistent with a healthy economy. It last reached that point in December 2007, the first month of the Great Recession. But the index has increased from the all-time low of 25.3 touched in February 2009.

■ The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city index of home prices rose 3 percent in September compared with the same month last year. Prices also gained 3.6 percent in the July-September quarter compared with the same quarter in 2011. Prices increased in 18 of 20 cities over the 12-month period.

Greek bankruptcy averted—for now

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—European and global financial leaders have agreed to release (EURO)44 billion ($57 billion) in critical loans to Greece and provide billions in additional debt relief in order to help the country stabilize its ailing economy.

After three weeks of negotiations, Greece's euro partners and the International Monetary Fund agreed early Tuesday morning to release the loans in four installments beginning next month. The leaders also settled on a raft of measures—including a debt buyback program and an interest rate cut on loans—that will reduce the country's debts by about (EURO)40 billion.

Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras hailed the agreement in Brussels as a victory. "Yesterday, a very grey, a very dark time for Greece ended definitively," he said in a televised address to the nation, adding that the agreement "managed to ensure us remaining in the euro."

But the country will still face years of economic pain as austerity measures agreed to as part of the bailout package are implemented. Most stock markets in Europe were modestly higher on the news out of Brussels with the Stoxx 50 index of leading European shares closing up 0.2 percent. Meanwhile the euro gave up earlier gains to trade 0.4 percent lower at $1.2941. The interest rate charged on Greece's benchmark 10-year bonds, an indicator of investor confidence in a country's finances, fell 0.2 percentage points to 14.47 percent on the news of the debt deal.

"There remains the potential for this deal to fall apart in the medium term as there are a lot of moving parts and it is a long way away from the permanent fix that the IMF had been insisting upon," said Gary Jenkins, managing director of Swordfish Research.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,878.13	1,398.94	2,967.79
-89.24	-7.35	-8.99
-0.69%	-0.52%	-0.30%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9574	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7503	Philippine Peso	40.875
British Pound	0.625	Indian Rupee	55.465	Singapore Dollar	1.2228
Canadian Dollar	0.9947	Indonesian Rupiah	9,619	South Korean Won	1,084.01
Chinese Yuan	6.2274	Japanese Yen	81.77	Swiss Franc	0.92879
Euro	0.7743	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0535	Taiwan Dollar	29.0669
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2186	Thailand Baht	30.6374

Nation

Rice concession on Libya fails to mollify 3 in GOP

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice told lawmakers Tuesday that her initial explanation of the deadly Sept. 11 raid in Libya was wrong, but her concession failed to mollify three Republican senators who signaled they would try to block her possible nomination to be secretary of state.

In a closed-door meeting that Rice requested, the ambassador answered questions from Sens. John McCain, Lindsey Graham and Kelly Ayotte about her much-maligned explanations about the cause of the attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. She was joined by acting CIA Director Michael Morell.

"The talking points provided by the intelligence community, and the initial assessment upon which they were based, were incorrect in a key respect: There was no protest or demonstration in Benghazi," Rice said in a statement after the meeting. "While we certainly wish that we had had perfect information just days after the terrorist attack, as is often the case the intelligence assessment has evolved."

Rice's unusual visit to Capitol Hill—typically only nominees meet privately with lawmakers—reflects the Obama administration's campaign for the current front-runner to replace Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton against some strenuous GOP opposition.

"We are significantly troubled by many of the answers that we got and some that we didn't get concerning evidence that was leading up to the attack on the consulate," McCain told reporters after emerging from the hour-plus session that he described as candid.

Said Graham: "Bottom line I'm more disturbed now than I was before that 16 September explanation." He said in a later interview that Rice went "far beyond the flawed talking points" and should be held accountable.

"I'm more troubled today," said Ayotte, who argued that it was clear in the days after the attack that it was terrorism and not a spontaneous demonstration prompted by an anti-Muslim video.

The White House remained defiant in its support for Rice, arguing that she was relying on an assessment from the intelligence community and had no responsibility in compiling the information on the cause of the attack. It dismissed what it characterized as a fixation on her national television appearances five days after the raid.

"The focus on, some might say, obsession on comments made on Sunday shows seems to me and to many, to be misplaced," spokesman Jay Carney told reporters at a White House briefing.

House Democrats, including female members of the Congressional Black Caucus, have suggested that the GOP opposition to Rice is sexist and racist. Senate Democrats, who will increase their advantage to 55-45 in the next Congress, said Rice could win confirmation if Republicans recognize the unfairness of penalizing her for the intelligence community's talking points.

"The personal attacks against Ambassador Rice by certain Republican senators have been outrageous and utterly unmoored from facts and reality," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said in a statement. "I am shocked that senators would continue these attacks even when the evidence—including disclosures from the intelligence community about the information she presented—have made it clear that the allegations against Ambassador Rice are baseless, and that she has done absolutely nothing wrong."

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., told reporters that "it is so unfair to hold her responsible for something that she didn't produce and which the intelligence community has specifically stood by."

Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., who met separately with Rice and Morell, said the ambassador told him that she based her Sunday show appearance on material from the intelligence community and the White House neither provided briefings nor additional talking points.

Lieberman said she made clear she was following the talking points, and her account on Sept. 16 should not disqualify her from any appointment.

A recurring issue is whether changes were made to the intelligence material at the request of the White House or for political reasons. Lieberman said Morell told him that was not the case.

"The acting director of the CIA said whatever changes were made in the original talking points before they were given in unclassified form to the House Intelligence Committee and to Ambassador Rice were made within the intelligence community," Lieberman said.

In a statement late Tuesday, McCain, Graham and Ayotte said Morell told them the FBI had removed references to al-Qaida in the talking points to prevent compromising ongoing investigations. Hours later, the CIA contacted the three senators to say Morell had misspoken and that the CIA had deleted the references.

Susan Rice

U.S. ambassador to the United Nations

Early years

Born 1964, Washington, D.C.

Education Bachelor's degree, Stanford University, 1986; master's degree, Oxford University, 1988; doctorate, Oxford University, 1990 (Rhodes scholar)

Prize Most distinguished doctoral dissertation in the U.K. in international relations

Diplomatic career

1993-1997 Various positions at the National Security Council during the Clinton administration, including policy advisor during the Rwanda genocide

1997-2001 Assistant secretary of state for African affairs; criticized for advising against accepting Sudan's offer to help nab Osama bin Laden; 9-11 Commission later said Sudan would likely not have helped

2002-2009 Senior fellow at the Brookings Institution

2009-present Ambassador to U.N.; helped win stiff sanctions against Iran, North Korea and support for intervention in Libya; criticized by some Republicans for statements about attack on U.S. consulate in Libya

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Source: U.S. State Department; USA Today; MCT Photo Service

Female military members suing to serve in combat

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Four female service members filed a lawsuit Tuesday challenging the Pentagon's ban on women serving in combat, hoping the move will add pressure to drop the policy just as officials are gauging the effect that lifting the prohibition will have on morale.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in San Francisco, is the second one this year over the 1994 rule that bars women from being assigned to ground combat units, which are smaller and considered more dangerous since they are often in battle for longer periods.

The legal effort comes less than a year after the ban on gays serving openly was lifted and as officials are surveying Marines about whether women would be a distraction in ground combat units.

"I'm trying to get rid of the ban with a sharp poke," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jennifer Hunt, who was among the plaintiffs in the latest lawsuit and was injured in 2007 when her Humvee ran over an improvised explosive device in Iraq.

Hunt and the other three women said the policy unfairly blocks them from promotions and other advancements open to men in combat. Three of the women are in the reserves. A fourth, Marine Corp Lt. Colleen Farrell, leaves active duty this week.

Women comprise 14 percent of the 1.4 million active military personnel. The lawsuit alleges that women are barred from 238,000 positions across the Armed Forces.

At a Washington, D.C., news conference, Pentagon press secretary George Little said the Defense Department was making strides in allowing more women into combat. He said Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has opened about 14,500 combat positions to women.

"And he has directed the services to explore the possibility of opening additional roles for women in the military," Little said. "His record is very strong on this issue."

American Civil Liberties Union Ariela Migdal, who represents the four women, said Panetta's actions weren't enough. She called for an end to the combat ban.

Women in the military

In the 18th and 19th centuries, U.S. women served on the battlefield as nurses, cooks and saboteurs; highlights in the history of women in the U.S. military since 1900:

Pre-1950

1900-1908 Army Nurse and Navy Nurse corps established

WWI More than 21,000 Army nurses serve; at least 400 die

WWII More than 60,000 Army nurses serve, 14,000 Navy nurses; 16 Navy nurses captured by Japanese held as POWs

1948 Women given permanent status in regular and reserve Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines

'50s-'60s

Korean War More than 500 Army nurses serve in combat zone

1961 First woman Marine sergeant major

1965 Marine Corps assigns first woman to attache duty; she is first woman Marine to serve under hostile fire

Vietnam War About 7,000 women serve in Southeast Asia; Army nurse is only woman to die from enemy fire

1967 Legal limits lifted on the number of women serving and highest ranks they can achieve

'70s-'80s

1969-72 Army and Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps open to women

1972 First naval vessel sails with a mixed crew; Navy promotes the first woman to rear admiral

1974 First woman military helicopter pilot (Army)

1976 Women admitted to service academies

1978 Coast Guard opens all assignments to women; Air Force Strategic Air Command assigns first women air crew to alert duty

1983 First woman completes Navy Test Pilot School

1989 770 women deploy to Panama in Operation Just Cause; two women command Army companies

'90s

Persian Gulf War 40,000 women deploy; two taken prisoner

1991 First Navy woman assumes command of ship; Congress lifts ban on women flying in combat; Army assigns first woman combat pilot,

1998 For the first time, woman fighter pilot delivers payload of missiles, laser-guided bombs in comba during Operation Desert Fox against

'00s

2003 First Native American servicewoman killed in battle; one of three women taken prisoner in first days of Iraq War

2004 Woman takes command of Air Force fighter squadron; three years later woman commands Navy fighter squadron

'10s

2012 Women are 14.5 percent of all active duty military, more than seven percent of high-ranking officers

Source: Women in Military Service for American Memorial Foundation, Inc.
Graphic: Judy Treible

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Tampa socialite fighting back in Petraeus scandal

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—A Tampa socialite embroiled in the scandal that cost CIA Director David Petraeus his job fought back Tuesday after more than two weeks of silence as her attorneys released emails, telephone recordings and other material that they say show she never tried to exploit her friendship with Petraeus.

Jill Kelley, through her attorneys, went on the attack against a New York businessman who accused her of incompetence in her work trying to set up a deal he was negotiating with South Korean companies; an attorney who accused her of name-dropping and of being a social climber; and the FBI agent who first leaked her name in connection with the Petraeus scandal.

Kelley, 37, became the focus of national media attention earlier this month after it was revealed that she was the recipient of anonymous emails from Paula Broadwell, Petraeus' biographer and mistress.

Broadwell allegedly told Kelley she should stay away from the former general and Gen. John Allen, who had replaced Petraeus as leader of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Petraeus and Allen had become friends with Kelley and her husband, Scott Kelley, a noted cancer surgeon, when the generals served at U.S. Central Command, which is headquartered at Tampa's MacDill Air Force Base. Kelley became an unofficial social ambassador for the base, hosting numerous parties for the officers.

The scandal this week cost Kelley her appointment as an honorary consul for the South Korean government, which she had gotten because of her friendship with Petraeus. The Koreans said she had misused the title in her personal business dealings.

Judge orders tobacco companies to say they lied

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal judge on Tuesday ordered tobacco companies to publish corrective statements that say they lied about the dangers of smoking and that disclose smoking's health effects, including the death on average of 1,200 people a day.

U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler previously had said she wanted the industry to pay for corrective statements in various types of advertisements. But Tuesday's ruling is the first time she's laid out what the statements will say.

Each corrective ad is to be prefaced by a statement that a federal court has concluded that the defendant tobacco companies "deliberately deceived the American public about the health effects of smoking." Among the required statements are that smoking kills more people than murder, AIDS, suicide, drugs, car crashes and alcohol combined, and that "secondhand smoke kills over 3,000 Americans a year."

The corrective statements are part of a case the government brought in 1999 under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations. Kessler ruled in that case in 2006 that the nation's largest cigarette makers concealed the dangers of smoking for decades, and said she wanted the industry to pay for "corrective statements" in various types of ads, both broadcast and print. The Justice Department proposed corrective statements, which Kessler used as the basis for some of the ones she ordered Tuesday.

Tobacco companies had urged Kessler to reject the government's proposed industry-financed corrective statements; the companies called them "forced public confessions.

Asia

US Navy secretary, Chinese minister discuss seas

BEIJING (AP)—China's defense minister and the U.S. Navy secretary on Tuesday discussed security at sea and plans to bolster the U.S. military presence in the Asia-Pacific region that have been sharply criticized by Beijing.

China hopes the sides would further cooperation in areas of mutual interest and "manage disparities when conflicts appear," Gen. Liang Guanglie told Ray Mabus according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

Liang called for "equality, mutual benefit and practical collaboration while developing a new type of relationship between the two militaries," Xinhua said.

■ ■ ■

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States said Tuesday it will raise concerns with Beijing over a map printed in new Chinese passports that is causing "tension and anxiety" among claimant states in the disputed South China Sea.

The Philippines and Vietnam have objected that the map shows disputed maritime regions as belonging to China. India has also complained over the map's depiction of its northern border with China and retaliated by issuing Chinese citizens visas embossed with New Delhi's own maps.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland told a news briefing it was up to countries to decide what their passports look like and the U.S. would still accept the Chinese one as a legal document.

But she added: "That's a different matter than whether it's politically smart or helpful to be taking steps that antagonize countries."

She said it was unhelpful for creating an environment for resolving the territorial disputes.

The U.S. intervention won't be welcomed by Beijing, which regards as meddling Washington's advocacy for peaceful settlement of the conflicting claims in the South China Sea, a potential regional flashpoint. The U.S. has no territorial claim itself but says it has a national interest in the stability of a region vital to global trade.

Taiwan has also condemned the map, which is printed on inside pages of the passport. Taiwan is self-governing but Beijing claims it as part of China.

The map shows an outline of China and includes Taiwan and the sea, hemmed in by dashes. Chinese official maps have long shown the same, but this is viewed as particularly provocative since it requires other nations to stamp it.

■ ■ ■

The meeting at the Ministry of National Defense in central Beijing comes just days after China began landing planes on its newly commissioned aircraft carrier, displaying rapid progress toward deploying the ultimate symbol of naval power and force projection.

Mabus also met Tuesday with the commander of the Chinese navy, Adm. Wu Shengli, and plans to tour two ships and a submarine in the eastern port of Ningbo as part of his four-day visit, the U.S. Embassy said.

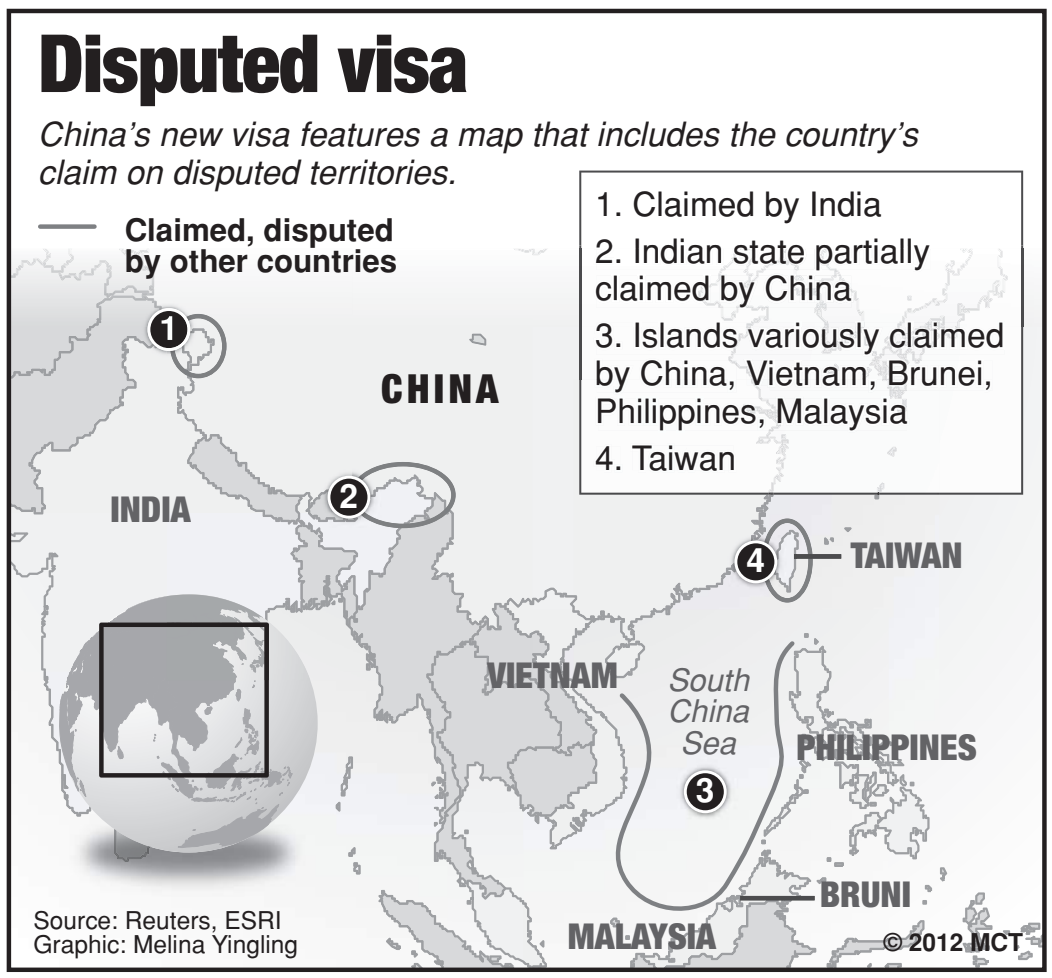
Beijing has criticized the U.S.'s moves in the Pacific as part of a campaign to encircle and contain China, despite Washington's claims that it is merely shifting its focus back to the region after winding-down the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Those steps include dispatching up to 2,500 U.S. Marines to rotate through a joint military training hub in the northern Australia city of Darwin and the deployment of a littoral combat ship—a new type of vessel that can operate closer to shore than other ships—to Singapore as part of a reassignment of naval assets to Asia.

China, for its part, has unnerved its neighbors with its moves to assert its claims in the South China Sea and off its east coast. Recent months have seen a standoff with the Philippines over a disputed shoal and frequent confrontations with the Japanese Coast Guard around East China Sea islands claimed by both sides.

Along with acquiring an aircraft carrier, sophisticated fighter jets, and other modern hardware, China has stepped-up training among the 2.3-million-member People's Liberation Army. State media on Tuesday repeatedly showed footage of ground exercises in the Nanjing Military District that faces Taiwan, the U.S.-allied island democracy that China threatens to bring under its control by force if it has to.

However, despite sometimes bellicose attitudes on both sides, there is also a growing push for greater contact and communication to avoid misunderstandings and build trust. Officers from the sides are meeting in China this week for exchanges on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations that will include a simulated coordinated response to an earthquake in a third country.

Chinese and U.S. sailors have also cooperated in training missions and anti-piracy patrols off the coast of Somalia.



ASIA BRIEFS

Thai prime minister survives no-confidence vote

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra comfortably survived a no-confidence vote in parliament on Wednesday following a heated debate on the government's rice-pledging scheme and flood management budget. Wednesday's vote came after a three-day censure debate, and four days after a demonstration by thousands of protesters who called for the overthrow of the government, citing corruption as one of the reasons. The opposition was outnumbered in parliament, however, and lawmakers voted 308 to 159 to keep Yingluck in power. One deputy premier and other two ministers also comfortably survived no-confidence votes.

Gunmen kill 3 in attack on Indonesian police

JAYAPURA, Indonesia (AP)—Unidentified gunmen stormed a remote police station in Indonesia's Papua province Tuesday, killing three policemen, police said. About 50 assailants—armed with modern weapons and traditional ones such as arrows—attacked the Pirime police station in mountainous district of Lanny Jaya early Tuesday, said Papua police spokesman Gede Sumerta Jaya. "Four officers stationed there were overwhelmed with so many brutal attackers," Jaya said. He added more than two dozen members of the police force's elite mobile brigade were searching for the attackers and for the fourth officer who may have escaped into the jungle.

Israeli envoy wants lifting of Manila worker ban

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Israel's envoy to the Philippines said Tuesday that he will ask the government to lift a ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Israel following the end of heavy fighting between Israeli and Hamas forces. Ambassador Menashe Bar-on said that the Philippines' ban is unnecessary because the situation in Israel was returning to normal after a ceasefire agreement last week. "We are confident that foreigners will feel safe" in Israel, he told The Associated Press. He said he was scheduled to meet with foreign affairs officials on Wednesday. "We hope that this ban will be lifted," he said.

US scientists find lessons from Japan nuke crisis

TOKYO (AP)—A group of American scientists met in Tokyo on Tuesday to study last year's Fukushima nuclear accident in hopes of finding lessons to improve the safety of U.S. atomic power reactors.

Norman Neureiter, head of the 22-member committee of the National Academy of Sciences, said the tsunami-spawned disaster at Fukushima nuclear power plant and its continuing impact have caused widespread concerns about the safety of nuclear energy.

"We are trying to look at the whole experience and to take from that lessons which can be applied to increasing safety of nuclear power," he told The Associated Press during a coffee break between technical sessions.

Neureiter said the committee is hearing from Japanese officials and will conduct its own investigation. He said the findings would be valuable to the nuclear industry throughout the world.

A tsunami generated by a powerful earthquake hit the Fukushima nuclear plant in March 2011, knocking out power and cooling systems and causing partial meltdowns in three reactors. More than 100,000 people evacuated from the area are still unable to return to their homes in Fukushima due to radiation concerns. The magnitude-9.0 earthquake and ensuing tsunami also left more than 19,000 people dead or missing on Japan's northeastern coast, but no death linked to radiation has been reported.

"Because after a thing like this in Japan and a damage and human losses and continuing radiation and all of these things, people will have more and more questions about nuclear energy. So, to draw the conclusion from this investigation hopefully useful lessons which can be applied to elsewhere to make sure nothing like this happens again."

During the three-day meeting that began Monday, the group conducted hearings from experts who led Japanese investigations, as well as regulators and officials from the Tokyo Electric Power Co., which runs the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, to gather information independently and discuss technical details. The group was also to visit Fukushima for a plant visit after wrapping up a Tokyo leg Wednesday.

Sex tape used to bribe Chinese official goes viral

BEIJING (AP)—A 5-year-old sex tape of an 18-year-old woman allegedly hired by developers to sleep with a city official is causing yet another scandal for China's ruling Communists in the city formerly led by fallen politician Bo Xilai.

The 50-something official, Lei Zhengfu, was fired from his position as district party secretary after the video, an apparent extortion attempt, went viral earlier this month and his jowly, pop-eyed mug became the butt of numerous Internet caricatures. But the scandal may still be growing, as a whistleblowing former journalist says he may release similar tapes of more city officials soon.

The party is already reeling from the scandal that triggered Bo's purge and further battered the party's reputation in the public mind. Chongqing, the city that he ran, has been depicted by prosecutors and state media as rife with cover-ups, abuse of power and corruption. Bo's wife was convicted of murdering a British businessman, and Bo himself faces allegations of corruption and obstruction of justice in the murder case.

News of the sex tape, which was apparently shot in 2007 but only leaked this month, comes as China's newly installed leadership ramps up anti-corruption efforts as it deals with a steady stream of bribery and graft cases that it fears has undermined its authority.

The tape exploded on the Chinese Internet Nov. 20 when screenshots of it were uploaded by a Beijing-based former journalist Zhu Ruifeng to his Hong Kong-registered website, an independent online clearing house for corruption allegations.

The lurid images, apparently taken secretly from a bedside table, show Lei having sex with a woman. Zhu told The Associated Press that the woman, whose face is not visible in the screen grabs, was hired by a construction company to sleep with Lei in return for construction contracts. The company later tried to use the tape to extort more business from Lei, he said.

World

Egypt mass protests challenge Islamist president

CAIRO (AP)—More than 200,000 people thronged Cairo's central Tahrir Square, protesting against Egypt's Islamist president Tuesday in an opposition show of strength, as the standoff over Mohammed Morsi's assertion of near-absolute powers escalated into the biggest challenge yet to his and the Muslim Brotherhood's rule.

The massive, flag-waving, chanting crowd in the iconic plaza rivaled the size of some of the large protests of last year's uprising that drove autocrat Hosni Mubarak from office. The same chants used against Mubarak were now turned against Egypt's first freely elected leader.

"The people want to bring down the regime," and "erhal, erhal"—Arabic for "leave, leave," rang across the square.

Protests in Tahrir and several other cities Tuesday were sparked by edicts issued by Morsi last week that effectively neutralized the judiciary, the last branch of government he does not control. But it turned into a broader outpouring of anger against Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood, which opponents say have used election victories to monopolize power, squeeze out rivals, and dictate a new, Islamist constitution, while doing little to solve Egypt's mounting economic and security woes.

AP

Egyptian protesters carry large national flags in Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt, Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012.

Clashes broke out in several cities as Morsi opponents tried to attack offices of the Brotherhood, setting fire to at least one. At least 100 people were injured when protesters and Brotherhood members protecting their office pelted each other with stones and firebombs in the Nile Delta city of Mahalla el-Kobra.

"Power has exposed the Brotherhood. We discovered their true face," said Laila Salah, a housewife in the Tahrir protest who said she voted for Morsi in this summer's presidential election. After Mubarak, she said, Egyptians would no longer consent to an autocrat.

"It's like a wife whose husband was beating her and then she divorces him and becomes free," she said. "If she remarries she'll never accept another day of abuse."

Gehad el-Haddad, a senior adviser to the Brotherhood and its political party, said Morsi would not back down on his edicts. "We are not rescinding the declaration," he told The Associated Press.

That sets the stage for a drawn-out battle between the two sides that could throw the nation into greater turmoil. Protest organizers on a stage in the square called for another mass rally on Friday. If the Brotherhood responds with mass rallies of its own, as some of its leaders have hinted, it would raise the prospect of greater violence after a series of clashes between the two camps in recent days.

A Tweet by the Brotherhood warned that if the opposition was able to bring out 200,000-300,000 "they should brace for millions in support" or Morsi.

Another flashpoint could come Sunday, when the constitutional court is due to rule on whether to dissolve the assembly writing the new constitution, which is dominated by the Brotherhood and Islamist allies. Morsi's edicts explicitly banned the courts from disbanding the panel. If the court defies him and rules anyway, it would be a direct challenge that could spill over into the streets.

"Then we are in the face of the challenge between the supreme court and the presidency," said Nasser Amin, head of the Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession. "We are about to enter a serious conflict" on both the legal and street level, he said.

Morsi and his supporters say the decrees were necessary to prevent the judiciary from blocking the "revolution's goals" of a transition to democracy. The courts—where many Mubarak-era judges still hold powerful posts—already disbanded the first post-Mubarak elected parliament, which was led by the Brotherhood. The judiciary has also been considering whether to dissolve both the constitutional assembly and the Islamist-led upper house of parliament.

Morsi's decrees Thursday banned the judiciary from doing so and gave any decisions issued by Morsi immunity from judicial review. Morsi also gave himself sweeping powers to take action to prevent threats to the revolution, stability or state institutions, which critics say are tantamount to emergency laws.

Syrian rebels, civilians brace for long civil war

HAREM, Syria (AP)—Before the civil war, Ramiz Moussa was a middle class civil servant who processed fines for littering, illegal construction and disturbing the peace in Aleppo, Syria's largest city.

Now, the 40-year-old squats with other rebels in damaged, abandoned homes in this embattled town. He rarely sees his family and thinks of little beyond the next attack on government soldiers.

"We no longer count the days," he said, standing in a rubble-strewn alley, holding a rifle and two rocket-propelled grenades. "Today we're in a battle, but we can't remember when it started, much less the past battles. You could ask me what day it is, but I can't tell you."

A dark realization is spreading across northern Syria that despite 20 months of violence and recent rebel gains, an end to the war to topple President Bashar Assad is nowhere in sight.

As a result, civilians and rebel fighters are digging in, building an infrastructure to secure rebel towns, care for the wounded and escalate the fight against Assad's forces.

Although incomplete and often hobbled by competition between factions, these efforts have produced a rebel force capable of victories nearly unimaginable months ago. And recent interviews in the northern provinces of Idlib and Aleppo with more than a dozen rebels and civilian activists gave no sign that they would give up soon.

"At the start I never imagined it would last this long," said rebel field commander Abdulllah Qadi, 25. "We have been at it for 20 months and we could be at it for 20 more. All we can do is keep fighting."

Syria's uprising started with protests calling for political change in March 2011. Like many in the opposition, Qadi said the successful toppling of dictators in Egypt and Tunisia gave him hope that Assad, too, would soon fall.

Instead, his regime launched a relentless crackdown, causing many to take up arms. The conflict escalated this year into a civil war with scores of rebel groups fighting Assad's military. Activists say more than 40,000 people have been killed.

UN climate scientist: Sandy no coincidence

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—Though it's tricky to link a single weather event to climate change, Hurricane Sandy was "probably not a coincidence" but an example of the extreme weather events that are likely to strike the U.S. more often as the world gets warmer, the U.N. climate panel's No. 2 scientist said Tuesday.

Jean-Pascal van Ypersele, the vice chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, predicted that as stronger and more frequent heat waves and storms become part of life, people will stop asking whether global warming played a role.

"The new question should probably progressively become: Is it possible that climate warming has not influenced this particular event?" he told The Associated Press in an interview on the sidelines of U.N. climate negotiations in Qatar.

Ypersele's remarks come as global warming has re-emerged as an issue in Washington following the devastating superstorm—a rarity for the U.S. Northeast—and an election that led to Democratic gains.

After years of disagreement, climate scientists and hurricane experts have concluded that as the climate warms, there will be fewer total hurricanes. But those storms that do develop will be stronger and wetter.

It is not correct to say Sandy was caused by global warming, but "the damage caused by Sandy was worse because of sea level rise," said Princeton University climate scientist Michael Oppenheimer. He said the sea level in New York City is a foot higher than a century ago because of man-made climate change.

On the second day of a two-week conference in the Qatari capital of Doha, the talks fell back to the bickering between rich and poor countries that has marked the negotiations since they started two decades ago. At the heart of the discord is how to divide the burden of cutting emissions of heat-trapping gases, including carbon dioxide.

Such emissions, primarily from the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and oil, have increased by 20 percent since 2000, according to a U.N. report released last week.

Van Ypersele (vahn EE-purr-say-luh) said the slow pace of the talks was "frustrating" and that negotiators seem more concerned with protecting national interests than studying the science that prompted the negotiations.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israeli PM Netanyahu suddenly seems vulnerable

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who appeared to be cruising to re-election a few weeks ago, suddenly appears vulnerable as the country prepares to go to the polls in January. The political comeback of a popular former foreign minister on Tuesday, coupled with the ruling Likud Party's selection of an especially hard-line slate of candidates, has suddenly raised questions about Netanyahu's prospects. Eager to portray Netanyahu as an extremist, opposition parties see an opportunity to mount a formidable challenge to the Israeli leader. Ousting Netanyahu remains a formidable task, but the return of Tzipi Livni, who served as Israel's foreign minister and chief peace negotiator from 2006 to 2009, injected a high-profile name into what had been a lackluster race. Well respected internationally, Livni immediately took aim at what she called a "leadership vacuum" and promised an aggressive push for peace with the Palestinians.

Brazil deforestation hits record low

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest has dropped to its lowest level in 24 years, the government said Tuesday. Satellite imagery showed that 1,798 square miles (4,656 square kilometers) of the Amazon were deforested between August 2011 and July 2012, Environment Minister Izabella Teixeira said a news conference. That's 27 percent less than the 2,478 square miles (6,418 square kilometers) deforested a year earlier. The margin of error is 10 percentage points. Brazil's National Institute for Space Research said the deforestation level is the lowest since it started measuring the destruction of the rainforest in 1988. Sixty-three percent of the rainforest's 2.4 million square miles (6.1 million square kilometers) are in Brazil.

Focus

VIENNA (AP)—Iranian scientists have run computer simulations for a nuclear weapon that would produce more than triple the explosive force of the World War II bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, according to a diagram obtained by The Associated Press.

AP

In this Saturday, Feb. 3, 2007 file photo, an Iranian technician works at the Uranium Conversion Facility just outside the city of Isfahan 255 miles (410 kilometers) south of the capital Tehran, Iran.

AP Exclusive: Graph suggests Iran working on bomb

The diagram was leaked by officials from a country critical of Iran's atomic program to bolster their arguments that Iran's nuclear program must be halted before it produces a weapon. The officials provided the diagram only on condition that they and their country not be named.

The International Atomic Energy Agency—the Vienna-based U.N. nuclear watchdog—reported last year that it had obtained diagrams indicating that Iran was calculating the "nuclear explosive yield" of potential weapons. A senior diplomat who is considered neutral on the issue confirmed that the graph obtained by the AP was indeed one of those cited by the IAEA in that report. He spoke only on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the issue.

The IAEA report mentioning the diagrams last year did not give details of what they showed. But the diagram seen by the AP shows a bell curve—with variables of time in micro-seconds, and power and energy both in kilotons—the traditional measurement of the energy output, and hence the destructive power of nuclear weapons. The curve peaks at just above 50 kilotons at around 2 microseconds, reflecting the full force of the weapon being modeled.

The bomb that the United States dropped on Hiroshima in Japan during World War II, in comparison, had a force of about 15 kilotons. Modern nuclear weapons have yields hundreds of times higher than that.

The diagram has a caption in Farsi: "Changes in output and in energy released as a function of time through power pulse." The number "5" is part of the title, suggesting it is part of a series.

David Albright, whose Institute for Science and International Security is used by the U.S. government as a go-to source on Iran's nuclear program, said the diagram looks genuine but seems to be designed more "to understand the process" than as part of a blueprint for an actual weapon in the making.

"The yield is too big," Albright said, noting that North Korea's first tests of a nuclear weapon were only a few kilotons. Because the graph appears to be only one in a series, others might show lower yields, closer to what a test explosion might produce, he said.

The senior diplomat said the diagram was part of a series of Iranian computer-generated models provided to the IAEA by the intelligences services of member nations for use in its investigations of suspicions that Iran is trying to produce a nuclear weapon. Iran denies any interest in such a weapon and has accused the United States and Israel of fabricating evidence that suggests it is trying to build a bomb.

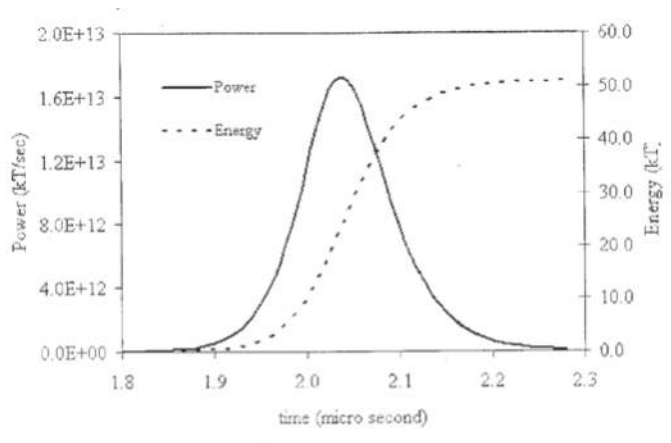
Asked about the project, Iran's chief IAEA delegate, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, said he had not heard of it. IAEA spokeswoman Gill Tudor said the agency had no comment.

Iran has refused to halt uranium enrichment, despite offers of reactor fuel from abroad, saying it is producing nuclear fuel for civilian uses. It has refused for years to cooperate with the U.N. nuclear agency's efforts to investigate its program.

Iran's critics fear it could use the enriched uranium for military purposes. Such concerns grew this month when the IAEA said Iran is poised to double its output of higher-enriched uranium at its fortified underground facility—a development that could put Tehran within months of being able to make the core of a nuclear warhead.

In reporting on the existence of the diagrams last year, the IAEA said it had obtained them from two member nations that it did not identify. Other diplomats have said that Israel and the United States—the countries most concerned about Iran's nuclear program—have supplied the bulk of intelligence being used by the IAEA in its investigation.

"The application of such studies to anything other than a nuclear explosive is unclear to the agency," the IAEA said at the time. The models were allegedly created in 2008 and 2009—well after 2003, the year that the United States said Tehran had suspended such work in any meaningful way. That date has been questioned by Britain, France, Germany and Israel, and the IAEA now believes that—while Iran shut down some of its work back then—other tests and experiments continue today.



AP

The undated diagram that was given to the AP by officials of a country critical of Iran's atomic program allegedly calculating the explosive force of a nuclear weapon _ a key step in developing such arms.

With both the IAEA probe and international attempts to engage Iran stalled, there are fears that Israel may opt to strike at Tehran's nuclear program. The Jewish state insists it will not tolerate an Iran armed with nuclear arms.

An intelligence summary provided with the drawing linked it to other alleged nuclear weapons work—significant because it would indicate that Iran is working not on isolated experiments, but rather on a single program aimed at mastering all aspects of nuclear arms development.

The IAEA suspects that Iran has conducted live tests of conventional explosives that could be used to detonate a nuclear weapon at Parchin, a sprawling military base southeast of Tehran. The intelligence summary provided to the AP said data gained from those tests fed the model plotted in the diagram. Iran has repeatedly turned down IAEA requests to visit the site, which the agency fears is undergoing a major cleanup meant to eliminate any traces of such experiments.

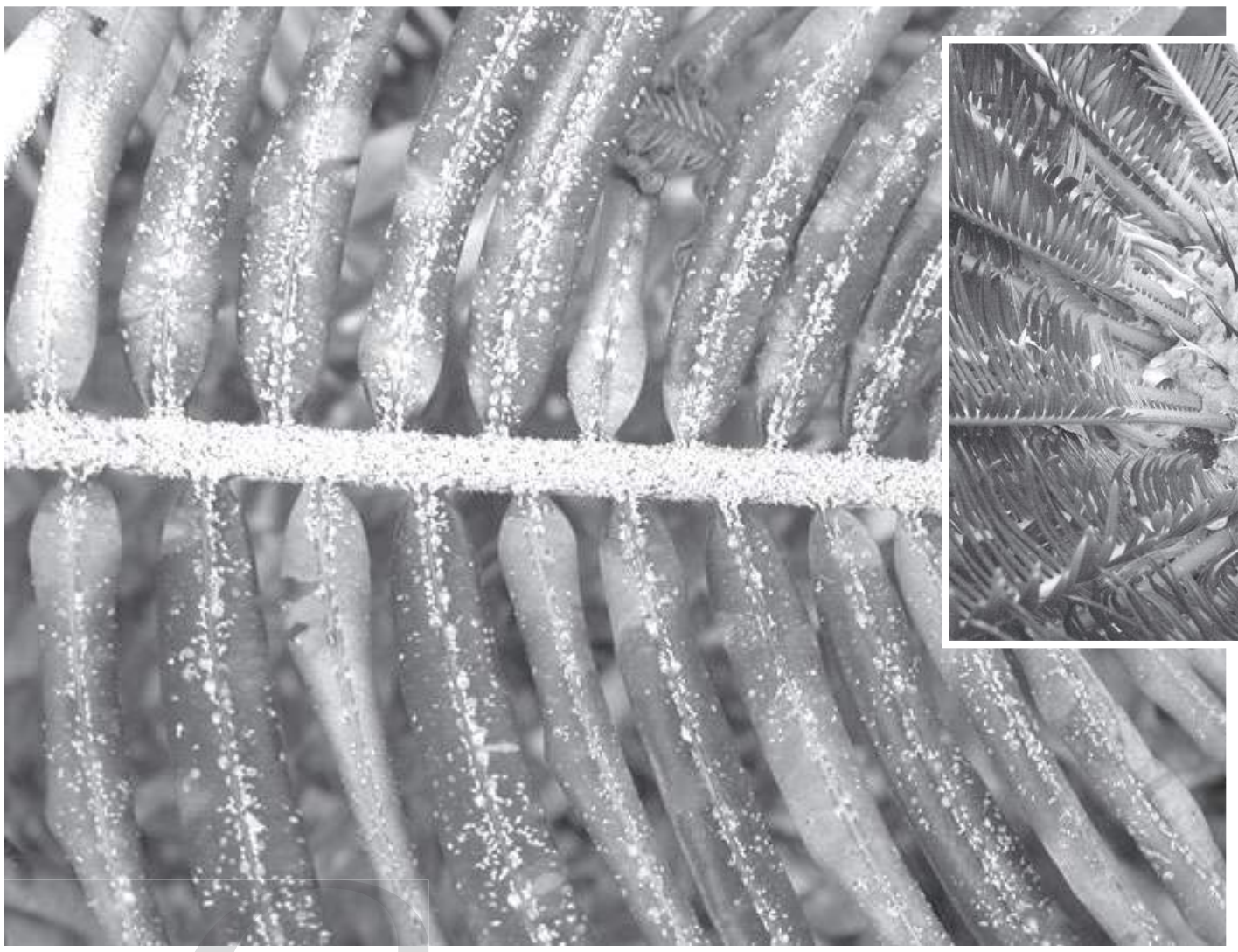
The intelligence summary named nuclear scientists Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, Majid Shahriari and Fereidoun Abbasi as key players in developing the computer diagrams, adding that Shahriari and Abbasi were also involved in the Parchin testing.

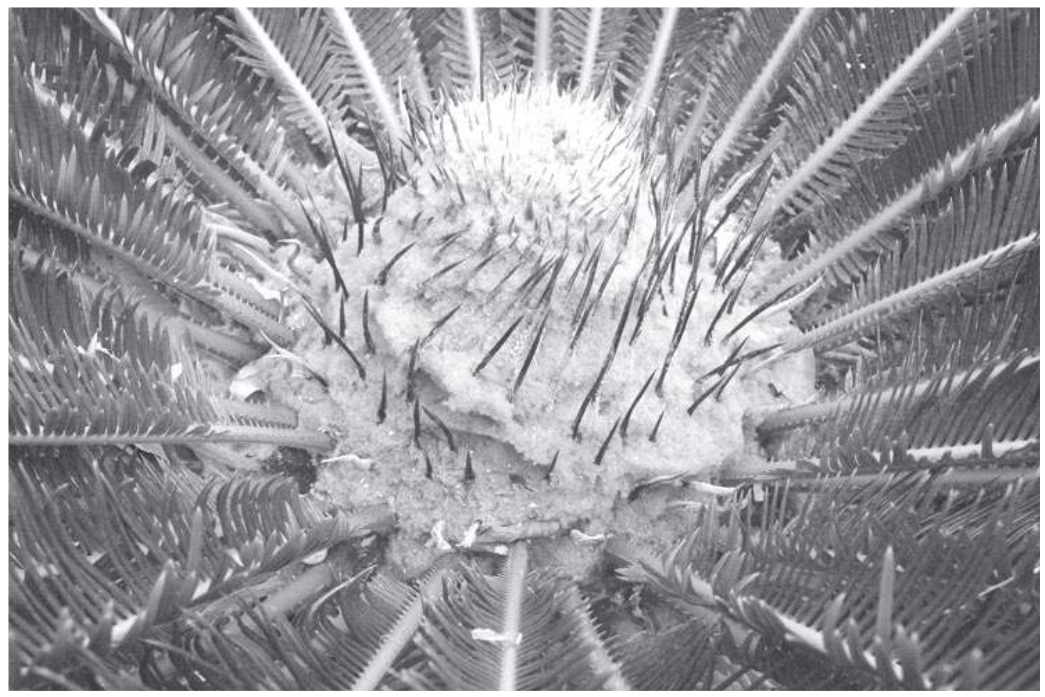
Iran has for years rebuffed IAEA attempts to question Fakhrizadeh for his suspected involvement in secret programs. Shahriari was assassinated in 2010 by what Iran says were Israeli agents. Abbasi, now the head of Iran's nuclear agency, was wounded in a separate assassination attempt the same day that Shahriari was killed.

The senior diplomat, who is familiar with the Iran probe, said the agency has not yet determined any connection between Parchin and the computer models. But Olli Heinonen, who headed the IAEA's Iran investigation until 2010, said using the results of the alleged Parchin tests would "make sense as part of the design and testing of a (computer) model."

Environment

UOG CNAS: Pest uses plant hairs for protection





▲ The numerous tan-colored plant hairs produced by this cycad plant protect the cycad aulacaspis scale insect from being eaten by a beetle predator.

UOG FILE PHOTOGRAPHS

◀ Tiny white cycad aulacaspis scale insects feed on leaf surfaces of Guam's endemic cycad plant.

UOG FILE PHOTOGRAPHS

Everyone needs to eat. But it's a dog-eat-dog world, and with the exception of the top predators, everyone also gets eaten. To cope with this vicious reality, a tiny insect that eats plants has learned to employ the plant's hairs for physical protection from its beetle predator.

The pest is called the cycad aulacaspis scale, and its invasion into numerous countries in recent years has caused immeasurable loss of biodiversity. Cycads belong to an ancient lineage of plants that date to the dinosaur era, and the pest requires a cycad plant for food. The insect's recent invasion to Guam has endangered *fadang*, island's endemic cycad species. Local biologists introduced a voracious beetle predator to the island to eat the scale insects, but the plant damage by the pest has persisted.

"We began looking into the reasons that the beetle was failing to control the pest, and discovered that the pest could crawl between the plant's trichomes to reach its feeding sites," said UOG professor Thomas Marler. Trichomes are what biologists call the hairs that can be found on many plant leaves and stems. Unfortunately, the much larger beetle predator could not make the same journey through the trichomes to feed on the scale insects that were feeding on the plant beneath the trichomes.

ON THE NET

http://www.landesbioscience.com/journals/psb/article/22013/

Plant hairs serve several functions, and one of those functions is to protect the plant from insects. "The glitch in this situation was that the insect that was excluded by the plant hairs was our beneficial insect that eats the scale pest, and the insect that could just walk straight through the hairs was the very pest we wished to control," said Marler.

Insects that eat plants have adopted numerous strategies to avoid getting eaten. One of those strategies is to co-opt one of the tactics that plants effectively use to avoid getting eaten. For example, plants produce a plethora of chemicals that taste bad or serve as a poison to herbivores. These chemicals are effective in deterring the feeding of most general insect herbivores. A well-studied practice by some specialist insects is their predilection to consume these plant poisons, sequester those poisons into parts of their body, then exploit the poisons for their own protection.

"Here we find another example of how an herbivore insect can be confronted with a plant's behavior that helps reduce the likelihood of being eaten, then take advantage of that behavior by using it for the same purpose," said Marler. This particular plant-pest-predator relationship has drawn the attention of biologists in the Western Pacific Tropical Research Center at the University of Guam because this pest is threatening cycad populations in other countries. Lessons learned on Guam may benefit cycad conservationists in those other countries. Marler's research appears in the November issue of the journal *Plant Signaling and Behavior*. ***(UOG)***

'SepticSmart' seeks to prevent costly septic system problems

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently launched "SepticSmart," a new program encouraging homeowners to take steps to maintain their home septic systems, preventing costly repairs, inconvenience and pollution to local waterways, which poses risks to public health and the environment.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 25 percent of U.S. households—more than 26 million homes—and almost one-third of new developments are serviced by septic systems.

EPA launched SepticSmart to promote proper septic system care and maintenance. This national program aims to educate homeowners about proper daily system use and the need for periodic septic system maintenance. SepticSmart also provides industry practitioners, local governments and community organizations with tools and materials to educate their clients and residents.

SepticSmart tips include:

■ Spread out laundry and dishwasher loads throughout the day. Consider fixing plumbing leaks and installing faucet aerators and water-efficient products. Too much water use at once can overload your system, particularly if it hasn't been pumped in the last couple of years.

■ Avoid pouring fats, grease and solids down the drain, which can clog your system.

■ Homeowners should have their septic system inspected every three years by a licensed contractor and have their tank pumped when necessary, generally every three to five years. Regular inspection and pumping of a septic system can save homeowners from costly repairs—on average, it costs homeowners $250 to pump their septic system, while the average cost of replacing a conventional septic system is $5,000 - $10,000. As the holidays approach, consider having your tank inspected and pumped.

■ Ask guests to only to put things in the toilet that belong there. Dental floss, disposable diapers and wipes, feminine hygiene products, cigarette butts, and cat litter can clog and potentially damage septic systems.

■ Remind guests not to park or drive on your system's drainfield because the vehicle weight could damage buried pipes or disrupt underground flow causing system backups and floods.

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/septicsmart. ***(EPA)***

EPA awards more than $5.3 million for research fellowships

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced last week more than $5.3 million in research fellowships to 127 students pursuing degrees in environmental studies. The 39 Greater Research Opportunities fellows and the 87 Science to Achieve Results fellows exemplify the agency's efforts to improve Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education. These fellowships encourage leadership in the nation's environmental science, research, restoration, pollution prevention and sustainability efforts.

The year 2012 marks the 30th anniversary of the GRO Fellowship program, which is part of the national effort to ensure that the United States continues to graduate students ready to meet environmental science, engineering, and policy challenges. By enhancing and supporting quality environmental education for undergraduate students, the GRO fellowship program encourages promising students to pursue careers in environmental fields and to continue their education beyond the baccalaureate level. Supporting graduate environmental study for masters and doctoral students, the STAR fellowship program provides a steady stream of well-trained environmental specialists that are meeting society's environmental challenges by performing new environmental research in engineering and in the physical, biological, health, and social sciences.

"These fellowship awards enable undergraduate and graduate students all over the country to pursue research and education opportunities that would otherwise be beyond their means," said Dr. Jim Johnson, director of EPA's National Center for Environmental Research. "Many of the fellowship opportunities springboard aspiring scientists and engineers into careers in environmental protection."

EPA is proud of the many research accomplishments of the alumni of the GRO and STAR fellowship programs. "My research into low-cost solar cells was made possible by this fellowship," said Dr. Cyrus Wadia, a 2002 STAR fellow and currently assistant director for the White House's Clean Energy & Materials. These programs have helped thousands of students achieve higher education and conduct cutting edge environmental research.

Applications for the fiscal 2013 GRO Program are currently open and applicants have until Dec. 5, 2012, to apply. ***(EPA)***

Life & Style

'Two and a Half Men' actor apologizes

NEW YORK (AP)—Teenage actor Angus T. Jones of the comedy "Two and a Half Men" apologized Tuesday for a series of interviews denouncing his own show, an episode that has rivaled former colleague Charlie Sheen's meltdown as an offscreen oddity.

Speaking to religious media outlets, the 19-year-old Jones has called the CBS comedy "filth" and "very inappropriate" and talked about how his religious awakening has affected his attitude toward life and work.

"Two and a Half Men," television's third most popular comedy, remains heavy on sexual innuendo even with Ashton Kutcher replacing bad-boy Sheen following his firing for drug use and a subsequent public meltdown. Jones, who started on the show when he was 10, plays Jake Harper, son of the uptight character portrayed by Emmy winner Jon Cryer.

In a statement issued late Tuesday, Jones said he had the highest regard for all of the people he has worked with on the comedy, including creator Chuck Lorre and Warner Bros. studio chief Peter Roth.

"I apologize if my remarks reflect me showing indifference to and disrespect of my colleagues and a lack of appreciation of the extraordinary opportunity of which I have been blessed," said Jones, who reportedly makes $350,000 an episode. "I never intended that."

Jones wasn't at the studio lot for a rehearsal on Tuesday. He's not scheduled to appear on the two episodes that are being filmed before the end of the year, said a person close to the show who spoke on condition of anonymity because Warner Bros. and CBS haven't commented publicly on Jones. His character has recently joined the Army and his airtime has been cut down.

AP

In this March 12, 2012 file photo, actor Angus T. Jones arrives at the Paleyfest panel discussion of the television series "Two and a Half Men" in Beverly Hills, Calif.

His real-life adventure came to light on Monday, when he said in a video posted by the Forerunner Chronicles in Seale, Ala., featured him talking about not wanting to be on "Two and a Half Men" anymore.

"Please stop watching it," Jones said. "Please stop filling your head with filth."

In a radio broadcast, "The Voice of Prophecy," recorded for the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Jones' birthday in October, Jones described his religious path. He has been attending a Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Los Angeles area.

Jones said he felt drawn to God after a tough time in his life when his parents were going through a divorce and he experimented with drugs.

"I never drank," he said. "That was one thing God protected me from, and I'm still a virgin. God protected me from those things."

Jones said that "it's very weird that I'm on a television show, especially now that I am trying to walk with God. My television show has nothing to do with God and doesn't want anything to do with God." Still, he said he had no plans to get out of his contract.

In another interview posted on Tuesday with Christianity Today, Jones described himself as a "paid hypocrite."

"Even though it's my job to be an actor, I have given my life to God," he said. "I am very comfortable and firm in that, but I still have to be on this show. It's the No. 1 comedy, but it's very inappropriate and the themes are very inappropriate. I have to be this person I am not."

"Two and a Half Men," which has seen its ratings tumble this fall with a move to Thursdays, is now behind "The Big Bang Theory" and "Modern Family" in the comedy ratings.

China's party paper falls for Onion joke about Kim

BEIJING (AP)—The online version of China's Communist Party newspaper has hailed a report by The Onion naming North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un as the "Sexiest Man Alive"—apparently unaware it is satire.

The People's Daily ran a 55-page photo spread on its website Tuesday in a tribute to the round-faced leader, under the headline "North Korea's top leader named The Onion's Sexiest Man Alive for 2012."

Quoting The Onion's spoof report, the Chinese newspaper wrote, "With his devastatingly handsome, round face, his boyish charm, and his strong, sturdy frame, this Pyongyang-bred heartthrob is every woman's dream come true."

"Blessed with an air of power that masks an unmistakable cute, cuddly side, Kim made this newspaper's editorial board swoon with his impeccable fashion sense, chic short hairstyle, and, of course, that famous smile," the People's Daily cited The Onion as saying.

The photos the People's Daily selected include Kim on horseback squinting into the light and Kim waving toward a military parade. In other photos, he is wearing sunglasses and smiling, or touring a facility with his wife.

An online editor for the People's Daily said Wednesday that the photo spread would be taken offline.

"We have realized it is satirical," said the editor who works on the site's South Korea channel, one of the three channels where it was posted. He refused to give his name. When asked whether editors knew the Onion piece was satirical when the People's Daily item was first posted, he declined to clarify, but added that they picked up the news after first seeing it on China's state-run Guangming Daily website.

He said that he hoped the incident wouldn't draw too much attention.

The chief editor for the People's Daily English channel, where the story also ran, declined to comment. "I can't say anything yet," said the woman who would only give her surname Wang.

While the People's Daily item was still up, The Onion updated the story to post a link and add a postscript: "For more coverage on The Onion's Sexiest Man Alive 2012, Kim Jong-Un, please visit our friends at the People's Daily in China, a proud Communist subsidiary of The Onion, Inc.

"Exemplary reportage, comrades," The Onion wrote.

It is not the first time a state-run Chinese newspaper has fallen for a fictional report by the just-for-laughs The Onion.

In 2002, the Beijing Evening News, one of the capital city's biggest tabloids at the time, published as news the fictional account that the U.S. Congress wanted a new building and that it might leave Washington. The Onion article was a spoof of the way sports teams threaten to leave cities in order to get new stadiums.

Two months ago, Iran's semiofficial Fars news agency reprinted a story from The Onion about a supposed survey showing that most rural white Americans would rather vote for Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad than President Barack Obama. It included a quote from a fictional West Virginia resident saying he'd rather go to a baseball game with Ahmadinejad because "he takes national defense seriously."

AP

In this July 25, 2012 file photo released by the Korean Central News Agency and distributed in Tokyo by the Korea News Service, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, accompanied by his wife Ri Sol Ju, waves to the crowd as they inspect the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground in Pyongyang, North Korea.

JOINT DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of Our Beloved

†Santiago Tudela Camacho
30th

†Josepha Manibusan Camacho
33rd

We, the family would like to cordially invite our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the Joint Anniversaries of their passage unto eternal life.

Beginning on Friday, November 30 thru December 07, 2012, Nightly Rosary will be said at 7:30PM at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Camacho in Kagman I, Kalamasa Lp.

On the final day Saturday, December 8, 2012 Mass of Intentions will be offered at 9:00AM at Santa Soledad Church in Kagman. Holy Rosary will be said at 10:30AM at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Camacho.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Thank You – Salamat Po

ginen I Familia

In Celebration of his new life

†Raymond Anthony Tudela Duenas

December 15, 1969 - November 01, 2012

In his new life, he now joins his **Mother, †Victorina Manibusan Tudela**

Raymond Anthony is survived by his **Parents, Joaquin Cabrera (Ti'an) Duenas and Maria Miyasaki Babauta Duenas**.

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his **Wife Joycelyn Salas, his Children, Grandchild, Brothers, Sisters, and In-Laws.**

He will be greatly missed by numerous uncles, aunties, relatives and friends.

His remains will arrive on Saipan from Guam on Friday, November 30, 2012 at 3:00pm and will lie in state at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, December 01, 2012.

Holy Rosary	7:30am - Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel
	8:00am - Responso Service
Mass of Christian Burial	9:00am - San Vicente Church
Interment Service	Chalan Kanoa Cemetery

Please join us in prayers,

Joaquin C. and Maria B. Duenas, Children and Family
I FAMILIA

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★ NOW SHOWING ★

Rise of the Guardians 3D

Friday and Saturday	1:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	7:30
Monday thru Thursday		7:30

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis
A group of mythical fairy-tale characters team up to save the world in this DreamWorks Animation production. Based on William Joyce's series of children's books, the pic features the voice acting talents of Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin, Jude Law, and Isla Fisher. Peter Ramsey co-directs with Joyce.

Life of Pi 3D

Friday and Saturday	1:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	7:05
Monday thru Thursday		7:05

Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG

Red Dawn

Friday and Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:35
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Chris Hemsworth, Josh Peck, Josh Hutcherson
Genre: Action • Rated PG13

Life of Pi 2D

Friday and Saturday	4:05
Sunday	4:05
Monday thru Thursday	4:05

Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG

Rise of the Guardians 2D

Friday and Saturday	4:30	9:45
Sunday	4:30	
Monday thru Thursday	4:30	

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2

Friday and Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG13

Flight

Friday and Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Denzel Washington, Don Cheadle, Kelly Reilly
Genre: Drama • Rated R

Skyfall

Friday and Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Cast: Daniel Craig, Judi Dench, Javier Bardem
Genre: Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

Wreck-It Ralph 2D

Friday and Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

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www.gohollywood.com

'Hobbit' director aims for magical film experience

By NICK PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Peter Jackson hopes the new technology he used on his "Hobbit" movie trilogy will create a magical experience that will get people into theaters.

Speaking at a news conference in Wellington hours before the Wednesday premiere of "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," Jackson said the films were shot at 48 frames per second instead of the traditional 24 to give them greater clarity. He likened the technology to the leap from vinyl records to CDs.

He said we live in an age when many younger people are happy to watch movies on their iPads.

"We just have to make the cinema-going experience more magical and more spectacular to get people coming back to the movies again," he said.

At the Cinema Con theater owner's convention in April, Jackson got a mixed reception for preview footage of "The Hobbit" shown at 48 frames per second. Some observers thought the images were too clear and the result so realistic that it took away from the magic of the film medium.

Jackson said Wednesday that when the movie opens worldwide next month in 25,000 theaters that only about 1,000 of them will be equipped to show the movie in 48 frames, so most people will see it in the more traditional format. The movie has also been shot in 3D.

"You are dipping your toe in the water, and it's this new way of shooting and projecting a film," Jackson said.

Jackson and most of the stars of the trilogy, including lead actor Martin Freeman, who plays hobbit Bilbo Baggins, held a relaxed, joking news conference at the museum Te Papa. Nearby, sunny weather was encouraging thousands of locals to gather around the 500-yard red carpet leading to the Embassy Theatre hosting the premiere.

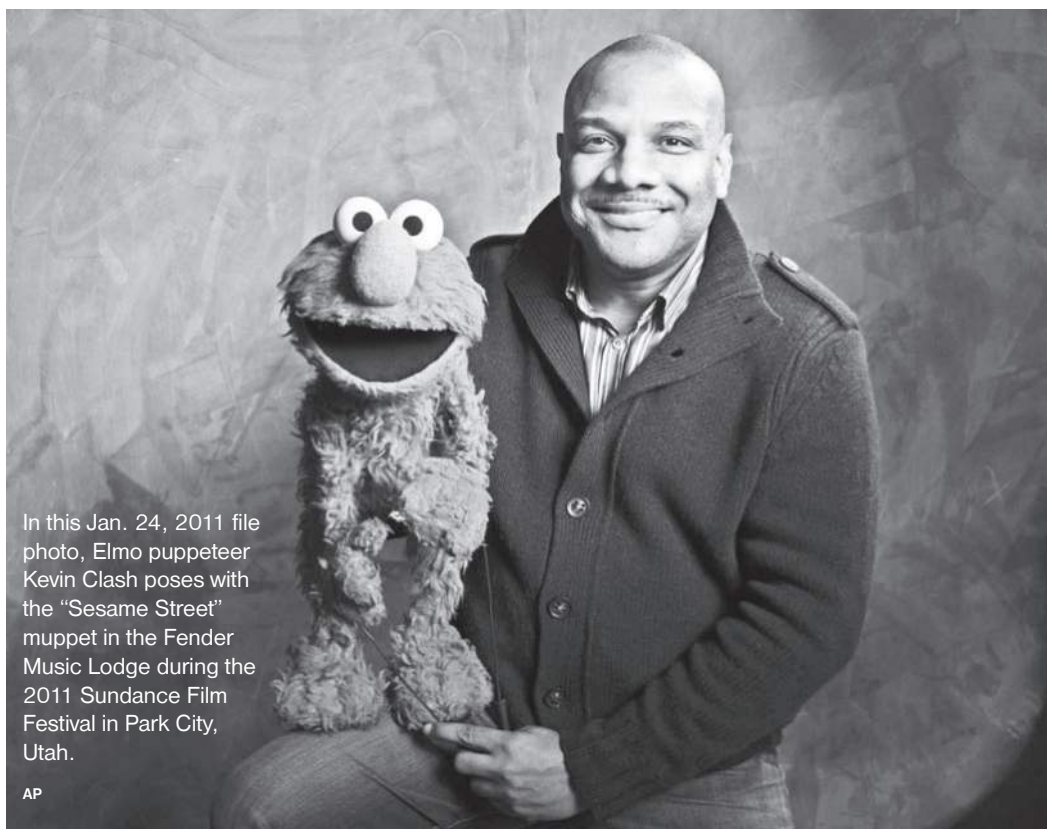
Jackson turned serious, however, in addressing claims that animals depicted on screen had been mistreated.

The group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is planning protests at "The Hobbit" premieres in New Zealand, the U.K. and the U.S. after several animal wranglers said three horses and up to two dozen other animals had died during the making of the movies because they were housed at an unsafe farm.

Jackson's spokesman earlier acknowledged two horses had died preventable deaths at the farms but said the production company worked quickly to improve stables and other facilities and that claims of mistreatment were unfounded.

"No mistreatment, no abuse. Absolutely none," Jackson said on Wednesday. "You've got a very radical political organization which has jumped on this," he added, referring to PETA.

He said the allegations were an insult to everyone who worked on the films and that PETA's attempts to get publicity at the premiere were "pretty pathetic."


In this Jan. 24, 2011 file photo, Elmo puppeteer Kevin Clash poses with the "Sesame Street" muppet in the Fender Music Lodge during the 2011 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.
AP

US man sues ex-Elmo puppeteer, claims NY abuse

NEW YORK (AP)—A man on Tuesday sued a former Elmo puppeteer who resigned amid sex abuse allegations, saying the voice actor met him in New York a dozen years ago after trolling gay telephone chat lines seeking underage boys for sex.

The lawsuit, seeking unspecified damages, was filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan by a Florida man who remains anonymous, making him the third person to make claims against Kevin Clash, who resigned from "Sesame Street" last week after 28 years.

Clash had quickly denied the first claim, which was recanted the next day. But Clash then resigned after a 24-year-old college student, Cecil Singleton, sued him for $5 million, saying the actor engaged in sexual behavior with him when he was 15.

According to the latest lawsuit, a 29-year-old man said he met Clash on a chat line when he was 16 and was exploring modeling opportunities in New York. It said the youth, then in high school, specifically stated on the chat line that his intentions were non-sexual. Still, the lawsuit said, Clash pursued, posing as a 30-year-old man whose name was Craig even though he was a decade older.

After speaking by phone for several days, Clash invited the youth to visit his Manhattan apartment, the lawsuit said.

At the apartment, Clash gave the teenager alcohol, and they engaged in sexual contact, including oral sex, the lawsuit said. While in the apartment, the youth spotted numerous Elmo dolls and photographs of Elmo with famous people such as Beyonce and Tyra Banks but didn't learn Clash's history until he moved to New York after high school at age 18 and engaged in a sexual relationship with him, the lawsuit said.

The youth was a compliant victim and did not become aware he had suffered adverse psychological and emotional effects from the sexual acts until this year, the lawsuit said.

Clash's lawyer, Michael Berger, said in a statement that the federal cases filed against Clash are without merit.

"The cases and Mr. Clash's reputation will be defended vigorously," he said.

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending Nov. 26, 2012:

TOP SONGS

1. "**Gangnam Style**," PSY
2. "**Over You**," Cassadee Pope
3. "**Die Young**," Ke$ha
4. "**Locked Out of Heaven**," Bruno Mars
5. "**Diamonds**," Rihanna
6. "**Home,**" Phillip Phillips
7. "**Ho Hey**," The Lumineers
8. "**I Cry**," Flo Rida
9. "**One More Night**," Maroon 5
10. "**Try,**" P!nk

TOP ALBUMS

1. "**Unapologetic**," Rihanna
2. "**The World from the Side of the Moon (Deluxe)**," Phillip Phillips
3. "**The Truth About Love**," P!nk
4. "**Rebel Soul**," Kid Rock
5. "**Red**," Taylor Swift
6. "**Take Me Home (Yearbook Edition)**," One Direction
7. "**The Lumineers**," The Lumineers
8. "**Sigh No More**," Mumford & Sons
9. "**Babel**," Mumford & Sons
10. "**The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Pt. 2** (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)," Various Artists

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending Nov. 26, 2012:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS

1. **Angry Birds Star Wars** (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
2. **WhatsAppMessenger** (WhatsApp Inc.)
3. **Bad Piggies** (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
4. **Bloons TD 5** (Ninja Kiwi)
5. **Wreck-it Ralph** (Disney)
6. **Minecraft - Pocket Edition** (Mojang)
7. **Flow Free: Bridges** (Big Duck Games LLC)
8. **TETRIS** (Electronic Arts)
9. **Plants vs. Zombies** (PopCap)
10. **Fruit Ninja** (Halfbrick Studios)

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS

1. **YouTube** (Google, Inc.)
2. **Hill Climb Racing** (Fingersoft)
3. **Dental Surgery** (Maura Thompson)
4. **Snapchat** (Snapchat, Inc.)
5. **Flow Free** (Big Duck Games LLC)
6. **Instagram** (Burbn, Inc.)
7. **Facebook** (Facebook, Inc.)
8. **Asphalt 7: Heat** (Gameloft)
9. **Emoji 2 Emoticons Free – 300+ Symbols & Icons** (Empire Apps)
10. **Are You Quick Enough? 2 Pro —The Ultimate Reaction Test** (phuong vo)

TOP PAID IPAD APPS

1. **Angry Birds Star Wars HD** (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
2. **Wreck-it Ralph** (Disney)
3. **Plants vs. Zombies HD** (PopCap)
4. **Minecraft - Pocket Edition** (Mojang)
5. **Where's My Water?** (Disney)
6. **FIFA SOCCER 13 by EA SPORTS** (Electronic Arts)
7. **Bad Piggies HD** (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
8. **MONOPOLY for iPad** (Electronic Arts)
9. **TETRIS for iPad** (Electronic Arts)
10. **Quickoffice Pro HD — edit office documents & view PDF files** (Quickoffice, Inc.)

TOP FREE IPAD APPS

1. **Asphalt 7: Heat** (Gameloft)
2. **Video Tube Free for YouTube** (Yau You Music Video Professionals — Tube Studio)
3. **Dental Surgery** (Maura Thompson)
4. **PITFALL!** (Activision Publishing, Inc.)
5. **Skype for iPad** (Skype Communications S.a.r.l)
6. **Candy Crush Saga** (King.com Limited)
7. **iBooks** (Apple)
8. **Podcasts** (Apple)
9. **Facebook** (Facebook, Inc.)
10. **Hill Climb Racing** (Fingersoft)

Adele's '21' sells more than 10 million copies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Adele is rolling in the records.

The 24-year-old British songstress's album "21" has sold more than 10 million copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan. The album reached the milestone last week, less than two years after its release.

"21" is the 21st album to sell 10 million copies since Nielsen SoundScan began tracking sales in 1991.

Adele's sophomore studio album debuted in 2011 and featured such hits as "Rolling in the Deep," ''Someone Like You" and "Set Fire to the Rain."

It's the third album to reach the 10 million mark in 2012. Linkin Park's "Hybrid Theory" and Usher's "Confessions" both crossed the 10 million mark earlier this year.

Adele won in all six categories she was nominated in at the Grammys earlier this year, including album of the year.

AP
In this Feb. 21, 2012 file photo, performer Adele arrives for the Brit Awards 2012 at the O2 Arena in London.

Thai inmates go 'Gangnam Style' before PSY concert

BANGKOK (AP)—A day before South Korean rap sensation PSY brings his "Gangnam Style" to Thailand, scores of inmates have danced to the hit behind barbed wire and bars in a Bangkok prison.

Seventy out of 4,500 prisoners at Bangkok Remand Prison put on a show Tuesday for the media and corrections department executives after competing in a "Gangnam Style" dance contest last week.

Officials said the program was to relieve inmates' stress and help them keep fit.

PSY's "Gangnam Style" this month became the most watched video ever on YouTube. It has spawned hundreds of parodies and tribute videos, including a popular one earlier this year by members of the Thai navy.

PSY will perform in Thailand on Wednesday night—his first show in Asia outside of South Korea.

Black Keys settle cases over music in commercials

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Black Keys told a federal judge the band has settled copyright infringement lawsuits against Pizza Hut and The Home Depot claiming misuse of their music in commercials.

The band alleged the song "Lonely Boy" was improperly used to sell power tools, and "Gold on the Ceiling" to sell pizza.

The Grammy-winning band sued in June and both companies denied copying the songs.

Attorneys for the band informed a federal judge in Los Angeles of the Pizza Hut settlement on Monday. The settlement agreement with The Home Depot was reached earlier this month.

No details of the settlements were included in court filings. Stephen Holmes, a spokesman for The Home Depot, didn't have an immediate comment. Representatives for Pizza Hut and the band did not immediately return message seeking comment.

Attorneys expect to file formal dismissals by early January, the court filings state.

Both songs appeared on the rock group's seventh album, "El Camino," which was released last year and has sold nearly 840,000 copies.

The Black Keys are comprised of Dan Auerbach and Patrick Carney. Musician-producer Brian Burton, who is known as Danger Mouse, also sued the companies.

"Lonely Boy" and "Gold on the Ceiling" both topped the Billboard alternative music chart after being released.

The Black Keys won two Grammy Awards in 2010 for music from their album "Brothers," which won the Best Alternative Music Album award that year.

'Dancing With the Stars: All Stars' champ crowned

LOS ANGELES (AP)—She was dissed on "The Bachelor" and came in third place during her first stint on "Dancing With the Stars," but Melissa Rycroft is now officially a winner.

The reality TV star and her professional dance partner, Tony Dovolani, were named the champions Tuesday on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars: All Stars."

The pair beat out fellow finalists (and former champs) actress Kelly Monaco and Olympian Shawn Johnson to claim the sparkly mirror-ball trophy.

Other contestants hoisted the new winners into the air as confetti rained down inside the "Dancing With the Stars" ballroom.

Besides Rycroft, Monaco and Johnson, the season's cast featured returning stars Pamela Anderson, Sabrina Bryan, Kirstie Alley, Gilles Marini, Joey Fatone, Drew Lachey, Helio Castroneves, Bristol Palin, Apolo Anton Ohno and Emmitt Smith.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Ex-'Melrose Place' actress guilty in fatal crash

SOMERVILLE, New Jersey (AP)—Jurors have convicted a former "Melrose Place" actress of vehicular homicide. The Star-Ledger of Newark reports the panel on Tuesday also acquitted Amy Locane-Bovenizer of a more serious charge, aggravated manslaughter, in the 2010 accident that killed a 60-year-old woman. Prosecutors said Locane-Bovenizer's blood-alcohol level was nearly three times the legal limit when the crash occurred on a dark two-lane road in the U.S. state of New Jersey. The defense conceded she was driving under the influence. But her lawyer claimed a woman was chasing her after an earlier accident, forcing her to speed. The actress appeared in 13 episodes of TV's "Melrose Place" and in movies including "Cry-Baby," ''School Ties" and "Secretary."

Bon Jovi, Grohl added to Sandy benefit concert

NEW YORK (AP)—Jon Bon Jovi, Dave Grohl and Eddie Vedder are adding to the star power at next month's Superstorm Sandy benefit concert at Madison Square Garden. A news release says the three rock stars will join Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band, Paul McCartney, Kanye West, Roger Waters, Alicia Keys, The Who, Billy Joel and others on Dec. 12 to raise money for the Robin Hood Relief Fund to benefit devastated areas of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Those areas were especially hard hit by Sandy earlier this month, killing dozens and causing billions of dollars in damage. Tickets for the concert, dubbed "12-12-12," go on sale Dec. 3.

Lenny Kravitz to play Marvin Gaye in biopic

NEW YORK (AP)—Lenny Kravitz has signed on for his first leading film role, playing singer Marvin Gaye in a biopic that will be shot next year. The rocker's publicist Carleen Donovan confirmed the news Tuesday. Kravitz has played supporting roles in the past, including a small part in "The Hunger Games."

Rolling Stone first reported details about the 48-year-old performer's part in the film, directed by Julien Temple. The magazine says the "Are You Gonna Go My Way" singer will portray Gaye during the 1980s when he was fighting his addictions and attempting to restart his career. Gaye died in 1984 after being shot by his father.

Casey Anthony movie to debut in January

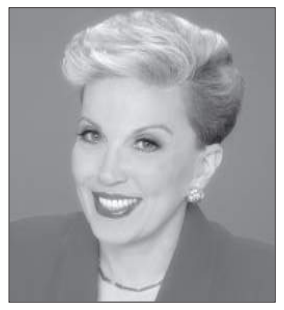
MIAMI (AP)—"Prosecuting Casey Anthony" starring Rob Lowe is set to debut early next year on the Lifetime cable television network. Based on prosecutor Jeff Ashton's book, "Imperfect Justice," the movie will air on Jan. 19. Lowe plays Ashton and the story is told through his point of view, with Anthony herself as a relatively minor character. Anthony was arrested in 2008 and charged in the death of her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee. She was acquitted of murder in summer 2010. Ashton left the State Attorney's Office after the case but then unseated his former boss in an election this past summer. Ashton will take office Jan. 8. Elizabeth Mitchell, of "Lost," plays prosecutor Linda Drane Burdick. Oscar Nunez, of "The Office," plays defense attorney Jose Baez.

Bob Saget book due in 2014

NEW YORK (AP)—Bob Saget has a book coming out, and, yes, it may get dirty. The actor and standup comedian has a deal with It Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. It Books announced Tuesday that the book, Saget's first, is currently untitled and is planned for early 2014. Saget, 56, has had a double life in the entertainment business. Family viewers know him for his role on "Full House" and as host of "America's Funniest Home Videos." The more daring like him for his stage act, where words not meant for prime time are used. According to It Books, his book will offer the "full monty" of filth and craziness and stories of such comedians as Richard Pryor and Don Rickles.

Boyfriend can't fill father's shoes for 9-year-old daughter

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My husband committed suicide 2 1/2 years ago. We had been married for 13 years and had two daughters who are now 15 and 9. The l5-year-old seems to be doing fine. The 9-year-old is not.

But my biggest problem is my live-in boyfriend, "Tim." While I love him and mostly enjoy his company, he appears to dislike my 9-year-old. She needs male attention because her dad was an attentive, wonderful father. I have discussed this with Tim. His response is he has a hard time doing it because she is "totally out of control and crazy."

Abby, she is none of that. She is a child with a lot of energy. I don't know what to do. I know it isn't fair to my daughter, but I'm lonely and miss Tim when he's not there. I'd appreciate any advice you can give me.

TRYING TO MOVE ON IN OHIO

DEAR TRYING: I am so sorry for your loss. However, parents get only one chance at parenting, which is why it's so important to do it right the first time. What is happening in your household is unfair to your daughter. She should not be forced to live with a man who doesn't like her and can't give her positive reinforcement. That's why, for her sake, it would be better for you and Tim to live apart. If you choose him over your daughter, you will later regret it and could cause her serious emotional problems for decades.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The holidays are right around the corner, and my husband and I have had a difficult couple of years financially. I'm a full-time student; he is the only one bringing in an income while we raise two young boys.

I love the holidays—except for shopping for others. I hate spending money I don't have looking for that perfect gift for everyone on my list. More often than not, the gift ends up being re-gifted or in the summer garage sale. For the past two years I have asked that if people want to give gifts, to please give them to the kids and leave us adults out of it. My requests have been ignored.

I know for a fact that my extended family is as strapped for cash as I am, but they charge on credit cards. Should I refuse a gift I can't reciprocate or thank them and try not to feel guilty? The name exchange option didn't work. I feel there should be more to the holidays than going into debt for gifts.

MA HUMBUG IN OREGON

DEAR MA HUMBUG: I agree with you, and so would credit counselors coast to coast. Thank your relatives for their gifts. Reiterate that money is tight, so you will be giving gifts to the youngest family members only. If you feel you must reciprocate in some way, whip up a batch of holiday cookies or fudge brownies, wrap them with a colorful ribbon and make that your holiday gift.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for six years. Before I met him, I was with a woman. I don't want my husband to find out about it because I'm afraid it will turn him on and he'll want to have threesomes. (He enjoys looking at lesbian porn.)

Should I feel this way about telling him?

WANTS MY PAST IN THE PAST

DEAR WANTS YOUR PAST IN THE PAST: If you think there is a chance that your husband will find out, then the person he should hear it from is you. And if he suggests having a threesome, tell him that you are happy as things are and you prefer to remain monogamous.

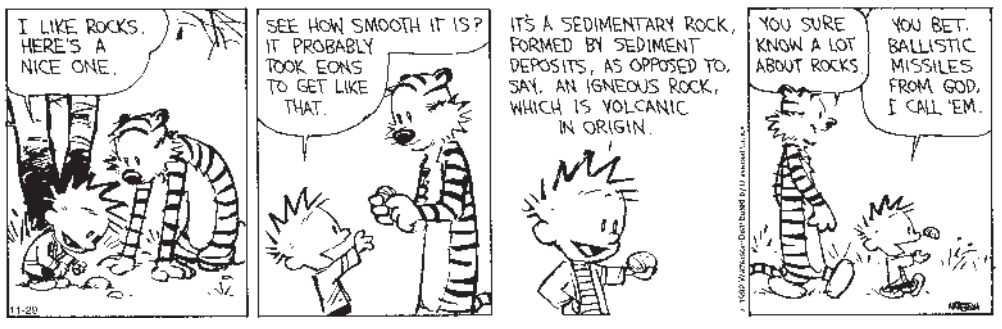
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

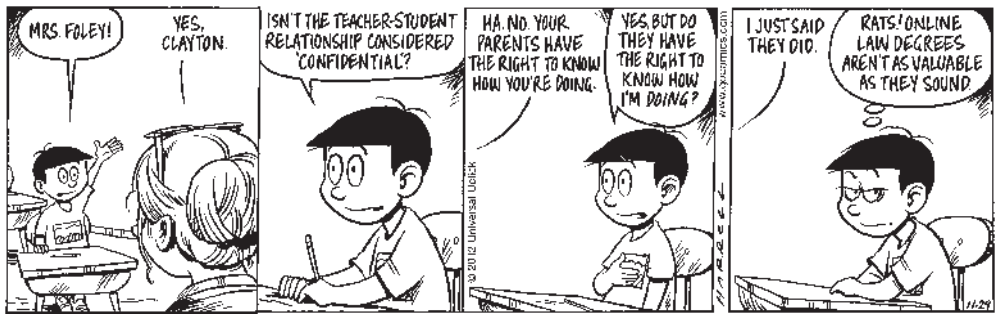

I LIKE ROCKS. HERE'S A NICE ONE.
SEE HOW SMOOTH IT IS? IT PROBABLY TOOK EONS TO GET LIKE THAT.
IT'S A SEDIMENTARY ROCK, FORMED BY SEDIMENT DEPOSITS, AS OPPOSED TO, SAY, AN IGNEOUS ROCK, WHICH IS VOLCANIC IN ORIGIN.
YOU SURE KNOW A LOT ABOUT ROCKS.
YOU BET. BALLISTIC MISSILES FROM GOD, I CALL 'EM.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MRS. FOLEY!
YES, CLAYTON.
ISN'T THE TEACHER-STUDENT RELATIONSHIP CONSIDERED 'CONFIDENTIAL'?
HA. NO. YOUR PARENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW HOW YOU'RE DOING.
YES, BUT DO THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW HOW I'M DOING?
I JUST SAID THEY DID.
RATS! ONLINE LAW DEGREES AREN'T AS VALUABLE AS THEY SOUND.
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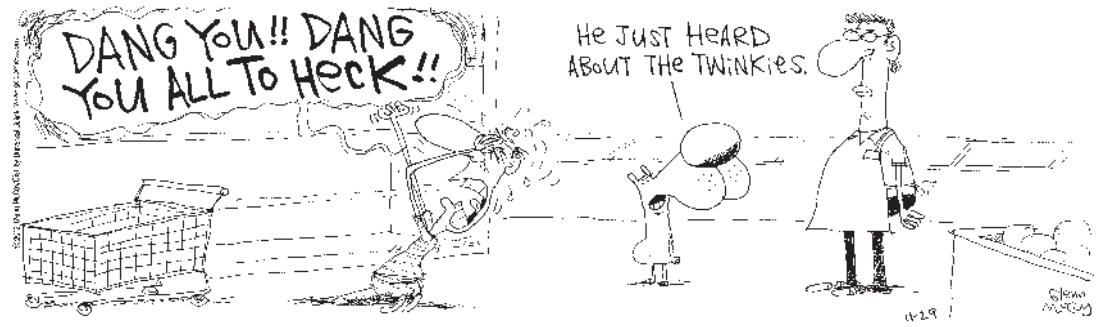
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Unescorted
5 Third degree?
8 Admitting clients
12 Not pizzicato
13 Scull tool
14 Give a darn
15 Mary's follower
16 Genetic initials
17 Eastern potentate
18 Shoelace hole
20 Cried like a puppy
22 Flightless bird
23 Reaction to fireworks
24 Gen. — E. Lee
27 Knight's glove
32 Atmosphere
33 Plant bristle
34 Preceding
35 Blood bit
38 Bottom-row PC key
39 Spy org.
40 Mao's successor
42 Angelic babe
45 Mini-program
49 Luau entertainment
50 Tier
52 Corporate emblem
53 On in years
54 First lady
55 So
56 Sampras or Seeger
57 Father
58 Criterion

DOWN

1 Store transaction
2 Salver
3 High point
4 Wine glass
5 Part of Iberia
6 Solo of "Star Wars"
7 Heavy cart
8 Spotted wildcat
9 Tract
10 Great Lake
11 Dweeb
19 Dorothy's auntie
21 A billion years
24 Music genre
25 Lubricate
26 Arm bling
28 Amaze
29 Still frozen
30 Blunder
31 — Aviv
36 Long, harsh speech
37 — de cologne
38 Dosage unit
41 Pixar film about Carl Fredricksen
42 Bloke
43 Ginormous
44 Raised
46 Traditional tales
47 Early birds?
48 Whistle sound
51 Latin 47-Down

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	A	N	A	■	R	A	P	■	F	I	A	P
A	X	O	N	■	E	W	E	■	L	E	G	O
B	E	L	I	E	V	E	R	■	O	V	E	N
S	L	I	M	E	■	■	T	H	R	E	E	D
■	■	■	A	C	M	E	■	O	A	R	■	■
G	U	T	S	■	O	V	A	L	■	A	B	C
A	S	H	■	E	V	E	R	Y	■	G	O	O
I	F	I	■	S	F	R	I	■	B	F	A	M
■	■	■	E	S	P	■	T	A	L	E	■	■
C	O	V	E	Y	S	■	■	A	H	E	A	D
A	R	E	A	■	C	L	E	V	E	R	L	Y
P	E	R	M	■	A	I	L	■	A	G	I	N
T	O	Y	S	■	R	E	F	■	D	O	T	E

Yesterday's answer 11-29

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19		■	20	21				
■	■	■	22			■	■	23			■	■
24	25	26		■	27	28	29				30	31
32			■	■	33			■	■	34		
35			36	37					38			
■	■	39			■	■	40	41		■	■	■
42	43				44	■	45			46	47	48
49				■	50	51		■	52			
53					54				55			
56				■	57			■	58			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anna Faris, 36; Don Cheadle, 48; Andrew McCarthy, 50; Howie Mandel, 57.

Happy Birthday: Partnerships can make or break you personally and professionally. A willingness to try new things and to embrace those in need will enhance your reputation, giving you more power and higher rank over others. Finding unique solutions and calling in favors will ensure you reach your goals. Your numbers are 9, 15, 24, 27, 31, 42, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Listen to what's being asked of you. Don't let anger take over. Assess what you are dealing with and minimize any negativity by focusing on what you can accomplish and the people who are willing to work with you instead of against you. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Speak up. There is plenty you can do to secure your position or find a new one. Traveling and communication will allow you to promote what you have to offer. Educational pursuits add to your resume and lead to interesting connections. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Someone from your past will help plug you into a good group of people in your chosen field. Share your creative ideas. Expose a plan you have and you are likely to get great input and a proposal as well. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make a point of contacting someone you miss or want to get to know better. Interacting with friends or colleagues will lead to an unusual change in the way you move forward or the lifestyle you choose to live. Love is enhanced. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take a closer look at your personal situation and you will discover something that may help you avoid a turn of events that will cost you emotionally or financially. Compromise can make a difference as long as it is reciprocated. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Step away from anyone pressuring you. Take a serious step toward making your life better. Getting involved in an event that will enable you to meet new people will help you adjust to a new way of life. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Consider how you can earn more money. Update your resume and discuss future prospects with people you have worked with. Don't let what others think or say deter you from doing what will make you happy. Make a move. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Money matters will cause uncertainty. An impulsive move to overcome your lack of funds will set you back. Sticking to a budget and drumming up extra work will help relieve stress. Time is of the essence, so don't procrastinate. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Size up any relationships that are causing you concern. It's time to weed out some of the people who are either costing you too much or causing you grief. Be truthful regarding your motives and you will avoid an unsavory situation. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Do whatever is necessary to get ahead. Live up to your promises and take control of whatever you face. You have everything to gain by speaking up and getting whatever troubles exist out in the open. It's time to move forward. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Do what's expected of you and you will avoid backlash. Show responsibility and you will gain respect. Change your living arrangements and you will make your environment less stressful. Say less and do more. You will make a good impression. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Implement your ideas and plans. You can make some favorable changes at home that will influence your financial situation as well as your relationship with those you live with. Romance and sharing with someone special will be fulfilling. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, intent and challenging. You are secretive, productive and admired.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5					3	
				1		4		8
1					4			
	1		6			8		7
		9		2		6		
8		3			1		4	
			3					2
2		6		9				
	3					1		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	2	9	1	7	6	3	4	8
1	4	3	5	8	2	6	7	9
8	7	6	9	3	4	5	2	1
6	9	5	2	4	7	8	1	3
7	1	2	3	5	8	4	9	6
3	8	4	6	9	1	2	5	7
4	5	8	7	1	3	9	6	2
2	3	7	4	6	9	1	8	5
9	6	1	8	2	5	7	3	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/28

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PENGUINS **Solution: 7 letters**

A	S	Y	E	M	I	W	S	E	L	B	B	E	P	S
F	D	K	P	F	L	I	P	P	E	R	S	I	G	Y
K	O	E	C	P	C	I	T	A	U	Q	A	G	R	S
I	C	O	L	I	A	O	C	M	I	S	E	I	E	D
N	I	P	D	I	H	H	A	N	E	A	A	T	V	E
G	N	S	N	A	E	C	O	T	D	F	P	L	I	F
A	A	E	A	S	O	R	P	I	S	Y	T	L	D	L
L	L	I	L	L	A	Y	C	R	D	Ⓗ	Ⓢ	Ⓘ	Ⓕ	I
A	L	V	D	C	D	S	O	U	T	H	E	R	N	G
P	E	O	A	A	I	C	E	R	S	O	R	K	F	H
A	G	M	G	N	K	O	O	T	N	E	G	R	E	T
G	A	E	E	Y	F	E	A	T	H	E	R	S	E	L
O	M	H	U	M	B	O	L	D	T	L	I	A	T	E
S	P	H	E	N	I	S	C	U	S	T	S	E	N	S
S	I	L	E	C	S	O	G	Y	P	L	U	M	E	S

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Adelie, Aquatic, Beaches, Bird, Chicks, Coats, Cold, Diver, Eggs, Eudyptes, Fairy, Feathers, Feet, Fish, Flightless, Flippers, Food, Galapagos, Gentoo, Happy, Humboldt, King, Krill, Land, Macaroni, Magellanic, Megadyptes, Movies, Nests, Ocean, Pebbles, Plumes, Pygoscelis, Rest, Rocky, Snares, Southern, Spheniscidae, Spheniscus, Swim, Tail

Yesterday's Answer: Secrets

The WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES ... Be the ... by sending a check or money order for $11.95 each, plus $3.00 postage and handling ... Media, P.O. Box ... for $1.00 per book ... additional. Make ... to Universal Uclick, ... Attn: Orders, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-5453. Order online at puzzles.com. Allow ... for delivery. Offer ... including $6.00 ... (up to 20 lbs.).

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Bury one's head in the sand

EMPLOYMENT

Auto Marine Inc. is looking for (1) Diesel Engine Mechanic. Must have 5 yrs experience. If interested, Call 323-2916 and ask for Adonis Santos or Leila Bais.

FOR SALE

2009 Hyundai Tucson SUV. Excellent condition; Like new; Mileage 29K; Color Silver; Sale $10,900. Call 287-7676.

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Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For $200.00 / month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

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Some conditions and restrictions apply

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Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
S.B.S INC.

(3) Cook - $ 5.55/hr.
Minimum of 4 years experience in Indian Cuisine (Tandoori)

(1) Waitress - $ 5.55/hr.
Minimum of 3 years experience.

Interested applicants may bring their resume to Taste of India Restaurant in Garapan or email it to tasteofindiasaipan@gmail.com

VACANCY
Marianas Management Corporation is currently seeking for qualified candidates to fill the following position
HVAC-R
Qualification: Must have knowledge of Walk-In- Freezer/Chiller and AC System
Please apply in person at the J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. Human Resources Office
Joeten Center, Susupe
Marianas Management Corporation
Is an equal opportunity employer
(NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE)

HAFADAI BEACH HOTEL
P.O. BOX 500338 SAIPAN, MP 96950-0338 | TEL: (670) 234-6495 to 98 FAX: (670) 237-2529

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Date: November 29, 2012 **Close Date:** December 07, 2012

Position: **(1) Cook**
Salary: $5.55 per hour
Job Qualification: High School Graduated / (2) Years Experience. Preferably Chinese and/or Western Style Cooking and other related duties.

For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I. Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495/8 ext. 5840/2. Employment application forms are available at Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resources Department.

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Job Vacancy Announcement

WELDER (1) - $5.55 to $6.00 per hour.
Must be high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as Welder. Must be knowledgeable on how to perform SMAW, GMAW, GTAW welding process, with knowledge how to use plasma cutting machine, oxy-acethelene cutting, hang soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products. Must be able to work flexible time.

Closing Date: December 8, 2012

Application are available at GPPC Inc. at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of valid Police Clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required. GPPC, INC. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive Whispering Palms
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Adelaida Dumlao Abella

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:	]	
EFREN LAGUA BALLESTEROS, Decedent.	]	Civil Action No. 12-0272

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF LIMITED VALUE

Date: January 08, 2013
Time: 1:30 pm
Judge: David Wiseman

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE EFREN LAGUA BALLESTEROS OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Adelaida Dumlao Abella**, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Settlement of Estate of Limited Value. The attorney for Petitioner is **Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on the Petition by Adelaida Dumlao Abella, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on January 08, 2013, at 1:30pm, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma 'Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Deceased of his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **ROBERT TENORIO TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.**

Dated this 9th day of November, 2012.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	COMBO (PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT? ™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

THE SAND

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Find today's solution in classified section

Hill's clutch shot pushes Pacers past Lakers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—George Hill's high-arching shot over Dwight Howard went in with 0.1 seconds left, and the Indiana Pacers withstood Kobe Bryant's 40-point performance and the Lakers' last-minute rally for a 79-77 victory over Los Angeles on Tuesday night.

Hill scored 19 points and hit that enormous clutch shot for the Pacers, who won their third straight road game over the Lakers after losing 11 consecutive regular-season games since Staples Center opened in 1999.

The Pacers' sturdy defense stifled the Lakers' up-tempo offense for most of the night, turning the game into an ugly grind before the thrilling finish.

Bryant hit a tying 3-pointer with 24.5 seconds left and produced the 114th 40-point game of his career despite playing with an apparent case of the flu for the Lakers, who dropped to 2-3 under new coach Mike D'Antoni.

David West scored 16 points and Paul George had 12 in the opener of Indiana's four-game road trip.

The Lakers flirted with the lowest-scoring game and worst shooting percentage in franchise history before scoring eight straight points in the waning minutes, tying it at 74 on Howard's dunk with 1:56 to play. After West made one free throw, Howard and Metta World Peace combined to miss four straight free throws, dropping Los Angeles' performance at the line to 23 for 43.

After Hill made a running shot, Bryant hit a 3-pointer in front of the Lakers' bench to tie it.

The Pacers wound down the clock for Hill, who beat Pau Gasol off the dribble and arched his shot over the leaping Howard, who blocked four shots and scored 17 points despite 3-of-12 shooting at the free throw line.

Before outscoring the rest of his team combined, Bryant missed the Lakers' morning shootaround when he fell ill. He spent the day in bed, drinking fluids and listening to Bob Marley, before giving another high-scoring performance, albeit with 10 turnovers and 12-for-28 shooting.

The Lakers returned from a three-game trip for a three-game homestand, their final multigame stretch at home before Christmas. After playing six games in a nine-day stretch earlier this month, the Lakers are clearly running near empty—and they had little to give in the first half against Indiana.

AP

Indiana Pacers' George Hill, center, reacts after making a game-winning shot against the Los Angeles Lakers in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012.

The Pacers jumped to an early lead and hung on to it despite falling into a 1-for-23 shooting slump in the first half, playing more than 12 minutes with just one field goal. The Lakers couldn't take advantage, missing 14 of their 18 shots in the second quarter and repeatedly failing to move the ball at D'Antoni's preferred pace.

Bryant made five of his first six shots, emulating his many strong performances with the flu, but fell into a 1-for-10 slump before getting rolling again late in the third quarter while Los Angeles made a 13-2 run. Bryant had nine turnovers in the first three quarters, but also had 29 points—more than his teammates' combined 28.

76ers 100, Mavericjs 98

In Philadelphia, Evan Turner scored 22 points and Thaddeus Young had 20 to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to a 100-98 win over the Dallas Mavericks on Tuesday night.

Jrue Holiday had 18 points and seven assists for the Sixers, who snapped a six-game losing streak to Dallas. Philadelphia shot 6 of 14 on 3-pointers and won its second straight game.

Chris Kaman scored 20 points, and Elton Brand and Shawn Marion had 17 apiece for the Mavericks. Vince Carter added 15 and was clutch in the fourth quarter in trying to bring Dallas back from a 10-point hole.

The 76ers finally created some space in a back-and-forth game when they snapped a tie with a 10-0 run midway through the fourth.

Carter hit his third 3-pointer and then a left-handed layup to bring the Mavericks to 100-98 with 37 seconds left. O.J. Mayo missed two free throws with 2.7 seconds to go and Jae Crowder's last-gasp jumper was off the mark, leaving Dallas with a 2-5 record on the road.

Suns 91, Cavaliers 78

In Cleveland, Goran Dragic scored 19 points, Michael Beasley added 15 and Phoenix took control late in the third quarter to beat Cleveland.

The Suns scored the final 14 points of the third to take a 71-59 lead they did not relinquish, sending Cleveland to its 10th loss in 11 games.

Cavaliers center Anderson Varejao had 20 points and 18 rebounds for his sixth straight double-double. He came in leading the NBA in rebounding with a 14.7 average.

Cleveland was playing its fourth game in five nights. The Cavaliers shot 36 percent from the field against a Suns team that was giving up an NBA-worst 103.3 points per game.

Cleveland played its fifth straight game without star point guard Kyrie Irving, out until mid-December with a broken left index finger. Backup shooting guard Daniel Gibson missed the game with a sore right elbow.

Rockets 117, Raptors 101

In Houston, James Harden scored 24 points and matched a career high with 12 assists to lead Houston over Toronto.

Patrick Patterson added 22 points for the Rockets, who have won four in a row. Omer Asik had 13 points and 18 rebounds.

Andrea Bargnani scored 21 points and Terrence Ross added a career-high 19 for the Raptors, who have lost five straight.

The Rockets planned to fly to Minneapolis immediately after the game to attend Wednesday's funeral for Sasha McHale, the 23-year-old daughter of coach Kevin McHale. Sasha McHale died on Saturday from complications of lupus. The team will then fly from Minneapolis to Oklahoma City to face the Thunder on Wednesday night — Harden's first game there since he was traded to Houston on Oct. 27.

Timberwolves 97, Kings 89

In Sacramento, Calif., Kevin Love had 23 points and an NBA season-high 24 rebounds to help Minnesota stop a five-game losing streak by beating Sacramento.

Love, who missed the first nine games of the season with a broken right hand, was a force inside all night for the Timberwolves, who took the lead late in the first quarter and never trailed again.

Tyreke Evans and DeMarcus Cousins each scored 20 points for the Kings.

Luke Ridnour scored 18 and Nikola Pekovic had 16 points and eight rebounds for the Timberwolves, who had fallen into a tailspin after starting the season 5-2.

Two free throws by Cousins pulled Sacramento to 91-89 with just under 3 minutes left. But Pekovic got free for a layup and Love threw up an off-balance shot that went in, giving the Timberwolves a 95-89 lead with 27 seconds remaining.

Goodell says Suh's intent very difficult to judge

DETROIT (AP)—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and league officials looked at Ndamukong Suh's latest infamous act on the field from several angles, trying to understand why the Detroit Lions defensive tackle kicked Houston Texans quarterback Matt Schaub in the groin area.

"Intent is something that is very difficult for us to ever try to make a judgment on," Goodell told reporters before speaking at a Lions charity event Tuesday night.

Goodell said he hasn't spoken to Suh about what he did in last Thursday's game, adding that the league's football operations staff is in the process of speaking to him about it. Suh was on his chest after being taken down by an offensive lineman and extended his left foot to hit Schaub below the belt, dropping the QB to his knees doubled over in pain in the first quarter of Houston's 34-31 overtime win.

"They're still going through the process of whether it should be a fine," Goodell said. "They'll probably make that decision in the next couple days."

AP

In this Nov. 18, 2012 photo, Detroit Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh (90) watches from the bench during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers at Ford Field in Detroit.

In a few weeks, Goodell said the NFL's competition committee will meet and might suggest changing a rule for the playoffs that hurt Detroit's chances of beating the Texans last week.

"We may evaluate it as it relates to the postseason," Goodell told reporters.

Officials didn't blow their whistle when two Lions tackled Justin Forsett, allowing him to get up and run for an 81-yard touchdown in the third quarter. Detroit coach Jim Schwartz negated an automatic review by challenging the play.

"It's unfortunate because the officials on the field made an obvious error and it could've been reversed," Goodell told hundreds of fans at Ford Field during a question-and-answer session. "That's what we want to correct."

Goodell was at the 19th annual Detroit Lions Courage House dinner that team officials say has raised $1.8 million for HAVEN, a suburban Detroit facility that tries to prevent and treat victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

Lions running back Jahvid Best was at the event because teammates voted him their Ed Block Courage Award winner, an honor each team in the league gives a player annually for overcoming an injury or adversity.

Best hasn't played since he was knocked out of a game against the San Francisco 49ers on Oct. 16, 2011, with what he has said was his third concussion.

"For the past year he has endured countless hours of cognitive rehabilitation and therapy with enthusiasm and eagerness without complaint anger or impatience," Lions athletic trainer Dean Kleinschmidt said. "I have never pulled harder for an injured athlete to return to the field of play."

Detroit drafted Best in the first round in 2010 and he accounted for 1,000-plus yards and six touchdowns. Best was limited to six games last season and is hopeful he can make a comeback next year.

He hadn't spoken publicly since the team announced earlier this month that he would stay on the physically unable to perform list for the year.

"They told me I can't play this season, but they didn't shut the door," Best told the crowd. "I'm a glass-half-full kind of guy. If you don't shut the door, there's still a way."

Best said he feels "normal" when he wakes up each day, but understands why he hasn't been cleared to play.

"Especially this year with the way they are about concussions and how sensitive a subject it is right now, they just want to make sure everything is OK," he said. "We're just taking the safest approach."

Former baseball union head Miller dead at 95

NEW YORK (AP)—Marvin Miller was a labor economist who never played a day of organized baseball. He preferred tennis. Yet he transformed the national pastime as surely as Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson, television and night games.

Miller, the union boss who won free agency for baseball players in 1975, ushering in an era of multimillion-dollar contracts and athletes who switch teams at the drop of a batting helmet, died Tuesday at 95. He had been diagnosed with liver cancer in August.

"I think he's the most important baseball figure of the last 50 years," former baseball Commissioner Fay Vincent said. "He changed not just the sport but the business of the sport permanently, and he truly emancipated the baseball player—and in the process all professional athletes. Prior to his time, they had few rights. At the moment, they control the games."

In his 16 1/2 years as executive director of the Major League Players Association, starting in 1966, Miller fought owners on many fronts, not only achieving free agency but making the word "strike" stand for something other than a pitched ball.

Over the years, his influence was widely acknowledged if not always honored. Baseball fans argue over whether he made the game fairer or more nakedly mercenary, and the Hall of Fame repeatedly rejected him in what was attributed to lingering resentment among team owners.

Players attending the union's annual executive board meeting in New York said their professional lives are Miller's legacy.

"Anyone who's ever played modern professional sports owes a debt of gratitude to Marvin Miller," Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Chris Capuano said. "He empowered us as players. He gave us ownership of the game we play. Anyone who steps on a field in any sport, they have a voice because of him."

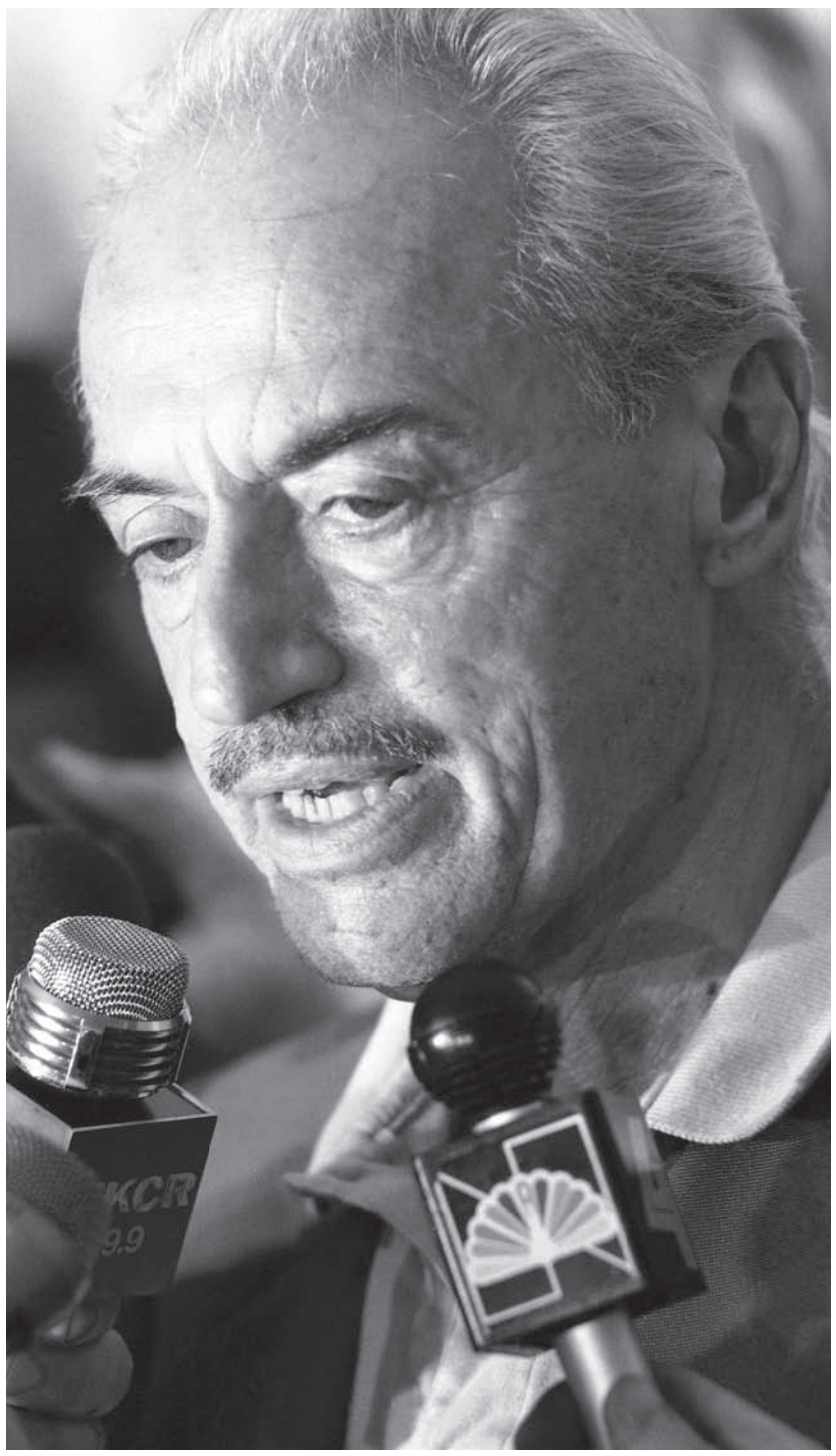
Major League Baseball's revenue has grown from $50 million in 1967 to $7.5 billion this year. At his last public speaking engagement, a discussion at New York University School of Law in April marking the 40th anniversary of the first baseball strike, Miller said free agency and resulting fan interest contributed to the increase. And both management and labor benefited, he said.

"I never before saw such a win-win situation in my life, where everybody involved in Major League Baseball, both sides of the equation, still continue to set records in terms of revenue and profits and salaries and benefits," Miller said. He called it "an amazing story."

Miller, who retired in 1982, led the first walkout in the game's history 10 years earlier, a fight over pension benefits. On April 5, 1972, signs posted at major league parks simply said: "No Game Today." The strike, which lasted 13 days, was followed by a walkout during spring training in 1976 and a midseason job action that darkened the stadiums for seven weeks in 1981.

Miller led players through three strikes and two lockouts. Baseball has had eight work stoppages in all.

Slightly built and silver-haired with a thick, dark mustache, Miller operated with an eloquence and a soft-spoken manner that belied his toughness. He clashed repeatedly with Commissioner Bowie Kuhn.



AP

This July 31, 1981 file photo shows Marvin Miller talking to reporters at the Doral Inn in New York. Miller, the union leader who created free agency for baseball players and revolutionized professional sports with multimillion dollar contracts, died Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012 in New York. He was 95.

Before Miller took over the union, some players actually opposed his appointment as successor to Milwaukee Judge Robert Cannon, who had counseled them on a part-time but unpaid basis.

"Some of the player representatives were leery about picking a union man," Hall of Fame pitcher and former U.S. Sen. Jim Bunning said in 1974. "But he was very articulate ... not the cigar-chewing type some of the guys expected."

Miller recalled that owners "passed the word that if I were selected, goon squads would take over the game. They suggested racketeers and gangsters would swallow baseball. The players expected a `dese, dem and dose' guy. The best thing I had going for me was owner propaganda."

He was elected by the players by a vote of 489-136. Baseball had entered a new era, one in which its owners would have to bargain with a union professional.

When he took over, the union consisted of a $5,400 kitty and a battered file cabinet, and baseball's minimum salary was $6,000. By 1968, Miller had negotiated baseball's first collective bargaining agreement. By 1970, players obtained the right to take disputes to an arbitrator.

Nowadays, baseball's biggest stars make up to $32 million a season, the average salary is more than $3 million and the major league minimum is $480,000. While the NFL, NBA and NHL have salary caps, baseball does not.

Miller's biggest legacy—free agency—represented one of the most significant off-the-field changes in the game's history. The reserve clause that had been in place since 1878 bound a player to the team holding his contract. Miller viewed it as little more than 20th-century slavery.

"Before Marvin, there were no such things as the negotiations. It was take it or leave it," Hall of Famer Joe Morgan said. "What was your recourse, to quit?"

Acting with union backing, outfielder Curt Flood finally challenged the reserve clause when he refused to report to his new team when he was traded in 1969 from the St. Louis Cardinals to the Philadelphia Phillies. Three years later, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the reserve clause by a 5-3 vote, keeping intact baseball's antitrust exemption.

In 1975, however, the union found a new test case, when pitchers Andy Messersmith and Dave McNally refused to re-sign with the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Montreal Expos, respectively. Arbitrator Peter Seitz sided with the players.

The owners went to court, saying the reserve system was not subject to arbitration. Two months later, U.S. District Judge John Watkins Oliver upheld Seitz, and a federal appeals court did the same.

In 1976, management and labor agreed to a contract that allowed players with six years of major league service to become free agents and sell their services to any team willing to pay. In a 1982 letter to The New York Times, Seitz called Miller "the Moses who had led Baseball's Children of Israel out of the land of bondage."

"Marvin possessed a combination of integrity, intelligence, eloquence, courage and grace that is simply unmatched in my experience," said Donald Fehr, a successor to Miller as union head. "Without question, Marvin had more positive influence on Major League Baseball than any other person in the last half of the 20th century."

Yet baseball's Hall of Fame refused to vote him in, despite five appearances on the ballot.

"I and the union of players have received far more support, publicity and appreciation from countless fans, former players, writers, scholars, experts in labor management relations, than if the Hall had not embarked on its futile and fraudulent attempt to rewrite history," Miller said after falling one vote shy in 2010. "It is an amusing anomaly that the Hall of Fame has made me famous by keeping me out."

Miller's next opportunity for election is December 2013.

Former Commissioner Peter Ueberroth said Miller should be inducted "without question."

"He changed the game of baseball," Ueberroth said. "He was very tough, but he was very fair in the end."

Miller was born in New York, the son of a salesman in the heavily unionized garment district. He was born with a withered right arm, which didn't prevent him from playing tennis into his 90s. His mother was a schoolteacher. He studied economics at Miami University in Ohio and New York University.

He entered the labor field in 1950 as an associate director of research for the United Steelworkers Union. In 1960, he was promoted to assistant to union president David McDonald. When McDonald lost a hotly contested election, Miller began looking for a new job.

Miller remained current on baseball events right up until his death, never hesitating to criticize owners for collusion and the union for agreeing to drug testing.

While baseball has had labor peace since 1995, turmoil has engulfed the other major U.S. pro leagues in recent years.

"Marvin exemplified guts, tenacity and an undying love for the players he represented," said DeMaurice Smith, head of the NFL players union. "He was a mentor to me, and we spoke often and at length. His most powerful message was that players would remain unified during labor strife if they remembered the sacrifices made by previous generations."

Miller is survived by his daughter, Susan; son, Peter; and a grandson. His wife, Terry, died in 2009. Susan Miller said her father wanted his body donated to science. She said the family had not decided whether to hold a service.

Phils' Carlos Ruiz suspended 25 games after positive test

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Add catcher to the Philadelphia Phillies' needs this offseason.

All-Star Carlos Ruiz was suspended Tuesday for the first 25 games of next season following a positive test for an amphetamine. The 33-year-old catcher had a career year in 2012, hitting .325 with 16 homers and 68 RBIs in 114 games.

"I am sincerely regretful for my mistake in taking a prohibited stimulant," Ruiz said in a statement issued by the Major League Baseball Players Association. "I apologize to my teammates, the Phillies organization and the Philadelphia fans. I will serve the imposed 25-game suspension to begin the season and I look forward to returning to the field and working toward bringing a championship back to Philadelphia in 2013."

Ruiz will be eligible to participate in spring training, including exhibition games.

"The Phillies fully support Major League Baseball's drug program," the team said. "We are disappointed by the news of this violation of the program. We will support Carlos in an appropriate manner and move forward to achieve our goal to play championship-caliber baseball in 2013."

Erik Kratz will likely begin the 2013 season as Philadelphia's starting catcher while Ruiz serves his suspension. Kratz, a career minor-leaguer, filled in nicely when he finally got a chance after Ruiz went down with a foot injury. Kratz hit .248, but had nine doubles, nine homers and 26 RBIs in only 141 at-bats. Kratz also threw out 45 percent of base-stealers (15 of 33).

Still, losing Ruiz hurts a lineup that struggled mightily last year. Ruiz moved up from his usual No. 8 spot and took over for an injured Ryan Howard as the team's cleanup hitter for a chunk of the season. He batted fifth after Howard returned in July.

The Phillies, who finished 81-81 after winning five straight NL East titles, have several holes to fill. Only Howard, Chase Utley and Jimmy Rollins are certain regulars. Utley, though, didn't play until late May in 2011 and late June in 2012 because of chronic knee injuries.

General manager Ruben Amaro Jr. hopes to add a starting center fielder, another starting outfielder and a third baseman either through free agency or trades. Now he'll also need a backup catcher for Kratz for the first month. Brian Schneider served as the team's primary backup the last three seasons, but only batted .212 in 122 games.

The Phillies have two top prospects catching in the minors. Sebastian Valle hit .253 with 17 homers and 58 RBIs in 80 games at Double-A Reading and Triple-A Lehigh Valley. Tommy Joseph, acquired in the trade that sent Hunter Pence to San Francisco, hit .257 with 11 homers and 48 RBIs for the Giants' and Phillies' Double-A affiliates.

Ruiz became the eighth player suspended this year under the major league testing program, the second for amphetamines following Baltimore shortstop Ryan Adams. The eight suspensions are the most since 2007.

Fajardo sneaks into season finale with December win

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This file photo shows a group of SGA members gathering for a picture before hitting the links in their March Ace of the Month tournament at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Saipan Golfers Association president Mariano Fajardo was declared the final qualifier into the upcoming two-day SGA Ace of Aces Championship season finale after topping a field of 28 last weekend at Coral Ocean Point Resort Club to win the December Ace of the Month honors.

Fajardo also went home with a turkey as did a number of other fortunate participants.

Fajardo posted a field-low 69 and won the event by two strokes as J.J. Atalig and Norman Tenorio tied for second place, however the former earned the nod for second place via the group's tiebreaker rule.

The trio and the other five Top 8 net finishers all received turkeys in addition to the closest to the pin and longest drive side bet winners.

Juan L. Babauta, Tony Deleon Guerrero, Jun Eun Teack, Das Krishnan, and Rick Kautz filled out the respective fourth through eighth spots, while Teack and Atalig won a second turkey along with Ed Manibusan and Art Deleon Guerrero as the closest to the pin winner on holes No. 12, 14, 3, and 7.

In addition, Greg Sablan and Ray San Nicolas received turkeys for being named the Young and Not So Young Long Knockers on holes No. 6 and 11.

Following its tradition, 10 14-oz. turkeys were given away this year for Thanksgiving.

Fajardo will be competing for the club's coveted 2012 Ace of Aces title against January's Bob Magofna, February's Juan L. Babauta, March's Das Krishnan, April's Art Deleon Guerrero, May's Ben Aldan, June's Ned Norita, July's John Cruz, August's Frank Castro, September's Steve Jang, October's Ray Dela Cruz, and November's Adam Hardwicke.

Participating non-ace members will be competing for a multitude of other prizes.

The finale event is scheduled next Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8 and 9, at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east and west courses. Show time is normally set at 9am with a 10:30am tee off.

All of the winners will be announced at the 2012 awards banquet, which will be held at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret on Dec. 13.

Contact SGA's Larry Guerrero at 287-1052 for more information.

MP UNITED

From Page 28

after the season will earn a spot to Division 1, while the last place team in Division 1 will be relegated to Division 2.

Joe Miller and Jireh Yobech scored one goal apiece in the second half to help MP United clinch the division title over Matansa.

MP United needed the two goals in the final 45 minutes of play as the first half ended in a deadlock, 2-all. Dhiraj Chhetri made all two goals of Matansa in the first half, as he scored in the 6th and 20th minute. Four minutes after Chhetri's goal, Jehn Joyner equalized, while Miller forced the second standoff with his first goal in the 30th.

Both teams started the second half flat before Miller found an opening on Matansa's defense and got his second goal in the 54th, while Yobech made the insurance four minutes later.

Wild Bill's 3, Inter Godfather's 0

In the first Division 1 make-up match, Wild Bill's shut out Inter Godfather's.

Wild Bill's now holds a 5-1-1 slate (unofficial tally), and has earned 16 points boosting its chances for the division title, as it leads Tan Holdings (4-2-1) by one win. Inter fell to fourth spot with its 2-1-4 card (7 points).

Jeeraphong Thoensaket played in his second straight game after getting a one-game suspension and gave Wild Bill's its first goal in the 11th minute. Tanapon Unsa made it a 2-0 halftime advantage when he scored in the 37th, while James McAllister handed Wild Bill's its last goal in the 65th.

Notably, the opposing squads kept their cool in their second meeting, as only three players were cautioned in last weekend's match. In their first duel that ended in a 1-1 draw, several MP United and Inter players received yellow cards and one even got a red one.

Tan Holdings 1, KFAS 0

In the other Division 1 game, Tan Holdings FC edged Korean Football Association.

Jun Jie Cui drained the lone goal for Tan Holdings to keep his team in the hunt for the division championship. Cui's goal came early, as he scored in the third minute and Tan Holdings hung on to hand KFAS its third loss.

KFAS, which bounced back with a 3-2 victory over Inter Godfather's on Nov. 18 after walking out of its heated match against Wild Bill's early this month, dropped to third place with its 2-1-3 record.

PAIRE

From Page 28

home $400, while $300 and $200 go to the third and fourth finishers respectively. Joeten, Top Notch, and Shirley's Coffee Shop donated the cash prizes.

MP United U18 boosted its chances for the Challenge Cup and the $1,000 that goes with topping the special tournament after getting goals from four different players in its semis match against Tan Holdings.

Dakota Hall got things going for MP United U18 after scoring in the 16th minute. Then four minutes later, it was Joon Lee's turn to light up the scoreboard for MP United U18, which took a 3-0 halftime lead, as Jehn Joyner added on more goal two minutes before the first half wrapped up.

After being quiet in the entire first half, Tan Holdings finally made it the board off Joshua Galarion's goal right into the first minute of the second half. However, that was it for Tan Holdings, while Chris Park gave MP United U18's its lone goal in the second half (54th).

In the second game, Paire foiled an all-MP United finals after eliminating the latter's U15 team.

Paire was unstoppable in the second half, drilling five goals to turn a slim 1-0 halftime lead to a rout. The Steve McKagan-coached team dominated possession in the second half and converted a couple of long attempts, including Hae Sung Lee's well-applauded loop shot a few meters away from midcourt. MP United goalie Bada Lee, who was busy the entire second half diving for saves, leaped to try to catch the ball, but to no avail.

Lee's impressive shot in the 80th minute gave Paire a 5-0 lead and eight minutes later, Jireh Yobech went past his defenders to make it a 6-0 advantage. Ethan Dickinson had chances to add one more goal in the final minute of the match, but missed his back-to-back attempts.

Despite failing to score, MP United U15 remained in contention in the first half, as only Zhi Peng Lin (22nd minute) connected on a goal for Paire. Mason Fruit then gave Paire a 2-0 lead with his goal three minutes into the second half, while Lin earned his second goal in the 68th minute and from there on MP United went to struggle defensively against its aggressive foes.

ROTA

From Page 28

Geckos colliding with the winner of MCS and RHS tussle, while No. 4 MHS Blue Dolphins meet the winner between THS and MHS Yellow.

The first elimination matches commence around noon followed by the upper bracket quarterfinals followed by the second elimination round.

The upper bracket semifinals are slated for 3pm leading into the last batch of elimination rounds before the 6:30pm championship tip.

The seeding positions were in fact very close this year. SIS White (13-1) won the tiebreaker for first place over GCA (13-1) and the former's Green Geckos (7-7) also snagged third place for a nice stake overall for a truly green group.

MHS Blue (7-7) hung on and split the three-way tie in the standings behind the frontrunner pair this season and took fourth place ahead of visiting THS and RHS who were granted automatic fifth and sixth seedings, respectively.

MCS (7-7) had to suck it up and settle for the seventh spot, but are definitely still a team to watch in the games, while No. 8 MHS Yellow (5-9), No. 9 SSHS (3-11), and No. 10 KHS (2-12) remain outside bets in the double-elimination contest.

The winning team will be awarded MISO's perpetual team trophy that will go on display in their school's trophy case until next year's episode.

SWEEP

From Page 28

Diane Francisco and Alma Ortega survived Kimberly Ocampo and Roma Barlao in the women's doubles C, 21-17, 19-21, 21-16.

Meanwhile, the results of the Golden Racquets-TAGA pairing along with the semis pairings will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Friday edition.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	9	4	.692	–
New York	9	4	.692	–
Philadelphia	9	6	.600	1
Boston	8	6	.571	1½
Toronto	3	12	.200	7

Southeast Division

Miami	10	3	.769	–
Atlanta	8	4	.667	1½
Charlotte	7	6	.538	3
Orlando	5	8	.385	5
Washington	0	12	.000	9½

Central Division

Milwaukee	7	5	.583	–
Indiana	7	8	.467	1½
Chicago	6	7	.462	1½
Detroit	4	11	.267	4½
Cleveland	3	12	.200	5½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	10	2	.833	½
San Antonio	12	3	.800	–
Houston	7	7	.500	4½
Dallas	7	8	.467	5
New Orleans	4	9	.308	7

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	11	4	.733	–
Denver	8	7	.533	3
Utah	8	7	.533	3
Minnesota	6	7	.462	4
Portland	6	8	.429	4½

Pacific Division

Golden State	8	6	.571	–
L.A. Clippers	8	6	.571	–
L.A. Lakers	7	8	.467	1½
Phoenix	7	8	.467	1½
Sacramento	4	10	.286	4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

29th Annual Turkey Trot Fun Run

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the 29th Annual Turkey Trot Fun Run held last Thursday head out to the course.

Soledad Tenorio stops to pose for the camera and promote the "Get CNMI Fit" group.

A group of runners is greeted with fog on their way up to Mt. Tapochao.

Runners head up to Capital Hill.

Beo Ngirchongor leads a small group of runners heading to Capital Hill.

Barefoot runners Chang Wang Jang, left, and Daniel Han make it on top of Mt. Tapochao.

Gabrielle Race and another runner head up to Mt. Tapochao.

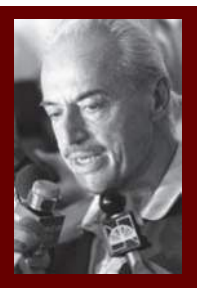
Blake Mister sprints to the finish line.

From left, Lyn Tenorio, Michael Villagomez, and Robert Torres walk to the finish line.

Robyn Wondrasek, left, and Joshua Berger celebrate as they are a few meters away from the finish line.

Hill's clutch shot pushes Pacers past Lakers
24

Saipan Tribune
Sports



Former baseball union head Miller dead at 95
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MP United assured of promotion in M-League

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of MP United FC pose for a group photo after ruling a tournament in September this year. The club is playing in the M-League and with its undefeated record, it is assured of a promotion from Division 2 to Division 1.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United FC is guaranteed a slot in Division 1 of the M-League next season as it remained undefeated in Division 2.

MP United improved to an immaculate 7-0-win-draw-loss record in Division 2 and moved a win away from sweeping the fall season of the M-League, following a 4-2 triumph over Matansa FC in a make-up game last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The win was MP United's second in as many games against Matansa (6-0-2) and strengthened the former's hold to the top spot in the five-team Division 2. MP United will have its last game against Kanoa Resort on Dec. 9 and regardless of the results of the match, the Norman Del Rosario-coached team will keep the No. 1 spot and move up to Division 1.

M-League, which Northern Mariana Islands Football Association launched in September, replaces its men's league, implements a promotion system in its two-division competition. The top finisher of Division 2

See MP UNITED on Page 26

Paire vs MP United in FA Challenge Cup

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire FC U18's Jordan Butcher, right, uses his heel to keep the ball during their semis game against MP United FC U15 in the 2012 FA Challenge Cup last Tuesday night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Paire FC and MP United's boys U18 teams collide in the finals of the 2012 FA Challenge Cup tonight, following their separate semis wins last Tuesday night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

MP United clinched the first finals berth in the single-elimination tournament after beating Tan Holdings U18 in the opening knockout match, 4-1, while top-seeded Paire notched the second and last championship seat after shutting out MP United U15, 6-0.

The winner-take-all finale will be played starting at 7pm, while Tan Holdings U18 and MP United U15 will duel in the consolation game, beginning at 4:30pm. Besides the bragging rights, the four remaining teams battle for cash prizes tonight with the champion squad getting $500 and additional $500 for its club. The runner-up takes

See PAIRE on Page 26

Sweep for Saipan Badminton Club

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Saipan Badminton Club is undefeated in the elimination round of the 2012 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament.

SBC completed a sweep of the round-robin competition and will be seeded first in the playoffs this weekend after dominating Shirley's/Colgate Badminton Club in Week 5 and 6 of the team event, 22-8, at the TSL Sports Complex. The defending champion won eight of the 10 matches last weekend to keep its spotless record in the elimination and become the team to beat in the playoffs.

The 8-2 (matches won/loss) win over Shirley's/Colgate was SBC's third in a row (with similar scores) as it also defeated the Berks Blazers (21-9 games won/loss) and TAGA Badminton Club (22-8) in Week 3 and 4. The defending champion's first win was against the Golden Racquets, 7-3 (20-10), giving SBC a field best 31-9 slate (85-35).

After dropping its first match, SBC swept the next seven and then split the last two to rout Shirley's/Colgate. Brandon Talania and Roma Barlao gave Shirley's/Colgate a good start after slipping past Julie Lee and Son Jan Ok in the mixed C doubles, 18-21, 21-18, 21-11.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Badminton Club's Oh Im Bog leaps for a return during his and Alma Ortega's mixed doubles BC game against Shirley's/Colgate Badminton Club's Brandon Talania and Toshiko Obata in the Traders Insurance tournament last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Two of the next seven doubles games also went the distance with SBC's Jexter Caranto and Joel Ortega and Alma Ortega and Heo In Sook edging Brandon Talania and Chris Hilario, 21-18, 19-21, 21-10, and Toshiko Obata and Roma Barlao, 18-21, 21-19, 21-17, in the men's and women's BC doubles, respectively.

For the five victories via sweeps, SBC recorded them in the women's AB, mixed BC, men's and women's A, and men's B. Caranto and Oh Im Bog teamed up in the men's B and they downed Ezekiel Macario and Chris Hilario, 21-16, 21-14; Malou Malasarte and and Lee So Young topped Jaja Bocago and Annette Ta in the women's, 21-10, 21-12; Sam Jones and Glenn Bluutjens dominated Joseph Santos and Jerry Hibi in the men's A; Oh and Alma Ortega won over Obata and Bernard Aquino in the mixed BC, 21-8, 21-12; and Hannai Choi and Heo In Sook thumped Obata and Windy Fernandez in the women's AB, 21-13, 21-12.

Aquino and Talania then ended SBC's streak when they swept Ortega and Son Jae Ok in the men's doubles C, 21-21, 21-11. However, SBC still had the last say, as

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Rota, Tinian spikers arrive for playoffs

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REPORTER

This year's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization boys volleyball postseason will feature contenders from all corners of the CNMI as teams from both Tinian and Rota will compete against eight Saipan teams tomorrow at the Marinas High School Gymnasium.

The games begin at 9am when the Tinian High School Stallions open up against the MHS Yellow Dolphins adjacent to Rota High School's early tip versus the Mount Carmel School Knights.

Then at 10am No. 1-ranked White Geckos of Saipan International School makes its debut against the No.10 Ayuyus of Kagman High with Grace Christian Academy's runner-up Eagles taking on the Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays.

The third group of matchups feature third-ranked SIS Green

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WALTER CEPEDA

Marianas High School Yellow Dolphins' Kevin Calibo (2) swats an overhand return against MHS Blue in this file photo during the MISO boys volleyball regular season at the MHS Gymnasium.